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ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

There have been no arrivals of mails during the week.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

At the general meeting of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha held in Tokyo on the 25th November, a dividend of 20 per cent. was declared.

The Kobe Club was closed for disinfection on the 24th November owing to the death of a Japanese servant from smallpox and the illness of another.

The plague in Formosa is rapidly diminishing, the number of new cases in the Taipeh district for the week ending with the date of last advices being four only.

Mr. Maurice William Ernest de Bunsen, H.M. Chargé d'Affaires in Siam, has been promoted to the post of Chief Secretary to the British Embassy at Washington.

Although Timor is to be separated from Macao politically, the latter is called upon to make an annual contribution of \$60,000 to the cost of the administration of its former dependency.

It was reported in Yokohama that it had been learnt by wire from Scotland Yard that Annie Luke, the supposed "lady in black," had not left her home in Devonshire within the last few months.

The Japanese Military Mission now visiting Tonkin has been received by the French Authorities with great distinction. The object of the mission is to study the organisation of the "territoires militaires."

The British North Borneo Government has, by proclamation, warned people there against assisting or abetting naval or military expeditions in aid of the rebels in the Philippines.

Mr. Kido Ryosuke, an employ of the Maruya dispensary, Yokohama, who sold arsenic to Mrs. Carew, has been fined ten yen in the Yokohama Local Court, in accordance with the Regulations relating to the dispensary business, &c.

The Philippine rebellion still continues. It is considered by foreigners in Manila that the Government is making some headway in the suppression of the movement, but the progress is very slow. Two more provinces have been placed under martial law.

A severe famine is reported at present prevailing in Ch'nan-tung, Szechuen province, owing to the prolonged rainy weather and floods which have spread over vast areas of country. Rice has risen to over \$18 per picul, and vegetables are a hundred cash per catty. The side of a hill has suddenly slipped away, and subsidences have taken place over an area of more than forty li in extent. There has been enormous loss of life.—*China Gazette*.

The session of the Hongkong Legislative Council was opened on the 3rd December and a second meeting was held on the 7th. There was rather a warm discussion on the subject of private communications between the Government and the unofficial members; and the Bill to appropriate seventeen-and-a-half per cent. of the colony's revenues as the military contribution, which has passed its second reading, was also the subject of interesting debates.

The newly organised Tientsin Spinning and Weaving Mills, under the management of the expectant Taotai Liu Kuanghan, are intended to contain besides 10,000 spindles and 300 looms, machinery for manufacturing broadcloth, Spanish stripes, flannels, Italians, and lustres. The total cost is estimated at Tls. 300,000. The capital of the concern is to be Tls. 600,000, of which Tls. 400,000 have already been subscribed entirely by Chinese in Tientsin.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The *China Gazette* of the 24th November says:—There is apparently some great upset in the railroad situation in the north, owing to active appearance of the Belgians on the scene, judging by letters received here this afternoon. The Belgians are reported to be supported by both France and Russia in order to freeze the Americans and British out. Sheng's departure from Tientsin for this port is now put off till the last boat of the season. It is reported that the head office of the Peking-Hankow Railway will be at Shanghai.

H.E. the Governor met the Directors of the Tung Wa Hospital on the 3rd December and intimated that it was his intention to appoint a Chinese doctor trained in Western Medicine to the institution, in order that patients might have the option of being treated according to Western principles instead of according to the Chinese system if they so wished, but that there would be no compulsion in the matter. It was also hoped that the services of a European doctor might be secured, who would be able to give his whole time to the duties of Visitor of the institution.

The *Peking and Tientsin Times* of the 21st November says:—The steamer *Glenfillan*, with the bridge-work for the Peking and Tientsin railway, arrived during the week, and is busy lightering at the Bar. The arrival of this steamer, in time to admit of discharging her cargo, improves the chance of trains being run through to Peking in the early spring.

The *Echo du Tonkin* says:—The appointment is announced of M. Wehrung to the management of the Shanghai branch of the Russo-Chinese Bank. M. Wehrung, who formerly resided in Indo-China as correspondent of the *Temps*, has latterly been on the staff of the *Economiste Européen*. This appointment of a Frenchman is calculated to greatly promote French interests in China.

The people of Hangchow are praising the Customs Commissioner of that city for his impartiality and devotion to duty. The other day a deputy of a Governor brought over from Shanghai a large consignment of copper and spelter for the mint to make into copper cash, which is much needed in the local markets as elsewhere. The deputy had a passport or *huchao*, to pass all the barriers and customs stations en route, "free of duty and all charges," and thought he could pass the Maritime Customs at Hangchow also. But the cargo was detained by the Customs on the ground that there was no edict authorising copper and spelter to pass free of duty, and the Commissioner would not release it until specially authorised by the Governor to do so.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The *N. C. Daily News* of the 1st December says:—The Council have decided to abandon the ratepayers' meeting that it was proposed to hold to-morrow to consider the question of an issue of dollar notes. The intimation published by us yesterday, that the Chartered Bank was about to make an issue of dollar notes, has caused the Council to come to this decision. The public convenience was one of the main inducements to the Council to undertake the issue; there was a very widely felt want which the Chartered Bank will now supply, and the necessity for a larger paper currency being thus met, and it being not impossible that another Bank will follow the Chartered Bank's example, the Council have rightly decided not to enter into competition with one or two more Banks in what is primarily the function of a Bank.

It is not every day that we are able to heartily congratulate the French Minister, M. Gérard, on his successes with the Tsung-li Yamen, and it is therefore with more pleasure than usual that we announce that M. Gérard has prevailed on the Chinese Government to rebuild the French Cathedral in the Tientsin City. This edifice was burnt down by a mob during the time of the massacre of the French missionaries in 1870, and since that date the ruin has stood there, a reproach to every civilized man who passed the spot, as it could not but be regarded as a monument of unavenged barbarism. The Cathedral will be a very handsome structure, with yellow-tiled roof. We are sure that all our readers will join us in our congratulations to M. Gérard on this service to all civilized nations.—*Peking and Tientsin Times*.

THE MILITARY CONTRIBUTION.

The official members of Council had of course no choice but to vote for the first reading of the Military Contribution Bill on Thursday, but those of them who spoke upon the subject would better have preserved their reputation as men of common sense had they remained silent. The Acting Attorney-General's aspersions on the patriotism of the unofficial members were peculiarly unfortunate. The question of patriotism does not enter into the matter at all; it is a simple case of the adjustment of accounts, to be settled with as little appeal to sentiment as a disputed interest account between a banker and his customer. The proposition that the colony may justly be called upon to contribute to the cost of Imperial defence is not now in dispute; the colony is willing to contribute, and to contribute its rightful quota, but there is a dispute as to how the amount should be arrived at. When Mr. POLLOCK retires from his labours in the Far East and enjoys the privilege of paying income tax in the old country we venture to say his patriotism will not run to the length of paying upon a higher scale than that to which he is legally liable. The position of the unofficial members with regard to the imperial taxation levied on the income of the colony is precisely analagous, except that inasmuch as they occupy a fiduciary position it is more incumbent upon them to guard the interests of their constituents than if they were simply dealing with their own money. If the Empire were in difficulties, the treasury empty, and the raising of a patriotic fund by the generosity of Her Majesty's subjects necessary, neither the unofficial members of Council in particular nor the community of Hongkong in general would be backward in putting their hands in their pockets, but to make any appeal to patriotic feeling in connection with such a prosaic subject as the military contribution is absurd. The unofficial members claim that the colony is being called upon to pay on a higher scale than is right, and as a case in point they refer to the neighbouring colony of Singapore, and contend that this colony ought to be treated on the same basis. If any arguments could be brought forward to show that it ought to be treated on a different basis it would have been interesting to hear them, but nothing of that kind was attempted. The Hon. F. H. MAY referred to Singapore, it is true, but, put tersely, his argument was simply this, that if the colony were taxed on the same scale as Singapore it would pay less than under the scale imposed by the Bill, that if it pays less it won't pay so much, and that therefore the Bill should be passed. To argument of that kind a serious reply is in the nature of the case impossible. Then the Colonial Secretary assures us that the leading members of the community desire to see the colony taxed on the higher scale. As to that we can only express an opinion that the hon. gentleman must have received an entirely wrong impression of the views communicated to him. The Governor in his opening speech did not attempt to argue the question, but contented himself with saying that he could hold out no hope that the request of the unofficial members that the contribution might be again fixed at the former figure of £40,000 would be acceded to and that he had no option therefore but to ask the Council to pass the Bill into law and so finally settle the much vexed question of the military contribution. That was really all there was to be said in favour of the Bill and it is

a pity the officials attempted to add anything to it. The Bill will of course pass through its remaining stages and the result will be that Hongkong will, in proportion to its population and revenue, contribute to the cost of Imperial defence on a higher scale than any other portion of Her Majesty's dominions outside the United Kingdom.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.

(5th December.)

The question of private communications between the Government and the unofficial members of the Legislative Council and the consideration of public questions by the unofficials in secret conclave has received ventilation by a healthy though apparently rather biting breeze in the shape of a letter from the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD to the Governor and the discussion thereupon at Thursday's meeting of the Council. Mr. WHITEHEAD objects to having cut and dried decisions arrived at before the subjects out of which they arise come up for discussion at the open meetings of Council; and in that the hon. gentleman is quite right, speaking generally. The subject, however, is not one on which a strict rule can be laid down, for as Mr. WHITEHEAD himself admits in his letter, there may be occasions when private and confidential communications may be rightly entertained between the Government and the unofficials. The unofficials have sometimes, for instance, been consulted as to the letting of the opium farm, and a matter of that kind could not safely be discussed otherwise than confidentially. Other cases in which it might be desirable for the Governor to seek the advice of the unofficials privately, and for the unofficials to give their advice, will readily occur to the reader. On examination it will be found that most of these cases refer to executive rather than to legislative measures, but even in regard to the latter suppositions cases might be cited, as, for instance, a case in which, in view of political movements in the neighbourhood, it might become necessary to pass a Bill for the safety of the colony or the preservation of the peace without a public disclosure of all the information in the possession of the Government. Such cases as these, however, may be regarded as the exceptions that prove the rule, and there can be no question that all subjects of ordinary legislation ought to be dealt with in public instead of deciding them in private and merely registering the decisions *pro forma* in public. The question of permanently imposing heavy light dues on shipping entering the port, for instance, is one that should be discussed in the fullest and most open manner, and the unofficial members would have acted more prudently if, when the matter was referred to them privately, they had suggested that the opinion of the Chamber of Commerce should be taken, instead of at once depriving themselves of all liberty of action in the matter by giving a decided opinion of their own arrived at in secret conclave. The Governor says that the correspondence in this case was "perfectly public," but with all respect we venture to suggest that His Excellency can hardly have weighed the precise meaning of those words, because the Hon. HO KAI says the communication was marked "confidential," and it is certain that the public did not know of the correspondence till it was published by Mr. WHITEHEAD. The Hon. HO KAI expressed indignation at what he termed the "slur" cast by Mr. WHITE-

HEAD upon his unofficial colleagues, but he also says that for himself he refused to consider as confidential the communication so marked, which in the circumstances is very creditable to him, and on the whole he appears to be in agreement with Mr. WHITEHEAD. The Hon. C. P. CHATER, the senior unofficial member, in rebuttal of the charge of secret communications, said that he had never received any communication from the Government which he had not immediately placed before his colleagues. But that is not the question. The allegation was not that the Government communicated privately with Mr. CHATER as an individual, but that it communicated privately with the unofficial members as a body, and thus forestalled the public discussion in open Council of the questions to which the communications referred. This was done with reference to the proposed reconstitution of the Sanitary Board, and, according to our interpretation of the word "public" and "private," it has been done in the case of the proposal to make the present temporary scale of light dues permanent. His Excellency says, in relation to the latter question, that the correspondence was perfectly public, so public that it might have been plastered on all the walls of all the houses in Hongkong, as far as he is concerned. But the fact remains that it was not plastered on all the walls of all the houses, but, on the contrary, Dr. HO KAI says that when the unofficial members met to consider the communication addressed to the senior unofficial member it was at once explained to them that the envelope was marked "confidential." We would not be disposed to lay much stress on that, because it might have been so marked by a clerk in the Colonial Secretary's office as a matter of routine and without special instructions; but it would certainly have been better if the Government had addressed its inquiries on the subject of light dues to the Chamber of Commerce and left the unofficial members free to discuss it, when it came on in open Council, without having them bound down by a declaration of opinion obtained from them beforehand.

(7th December.)

The facts with reference to the communication of the Government to the unofficial members of Council on the subject of the light dues are as follow: The Governor's despatch to the senior unofficial member was not marked either "confidential" or "private." The Hon. C. P. CHATER on receiving it circulated it to the other unofficial members in a cover marked "private," his reason for doing so, as he has explained to us, being that he desired it should be opened by the gentlemen to whom it was addressed and not by their clerks as in the case of an ordinary business communication; the marking of the cover "private" was not intended to convey the meaning that the contents were to be regarded as confidential. The cover was initialled in the usual way by the various addressees, resealed, and passed on, but the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD wrote on it the query, "Why mark this private?" When the meeting of the unofficial members took place Mr. CHATER, before the discussion of the subject matter of the communication commenced, explained his reason for marking the circulating cover "private," and it was agreed by all the members present that the communication was not of a confidential nature, and that they were at liberty to consult their constituents with reference to it. It would seem therefore that the Hon. HO KAI's recollection must have been at fault when he said in Council that the cover

was marked "confidential" and that he was not aware whether it was so marked by the Government or not; the fact being that it was simply marked "private" by Mr. CHATER. While the facts above stated dispose of any supposition that the Government desired to bind the unofficial members to secrecy, they in no way alter the opinion previously expressed in this column as to its being a mistaken policy on the part of the Government to seek to elicit from the unofficial members beforehand an expression of opinion on subjects which are subsequently to be disposed of in Council. Such a course is calculated to either curtail or altogether destroy the discussion of the questions in public and to reduce the function of the Legislative Council to merely registering decisions already arrived at.

(8th December.)

With respect to the communication from the Government to the unofficial members of Council, the reference thereto at the meeting of Council on Thursday, and the remarks made in this column yesterday, the Hon. HO KAI writes us:—"It appears Mr. CHATER gave an explanation to the unofficial members at the meeting, but I was late in attendance. I did not hear it and as a matter of fact did not know who had marked the cover 'confidential,' and therefore when I stated that I did not know who had marked it I was quite correct. At the time of the meeting and for some time afterwards I was in ignorance as to who had marked it and the reason why it was so marked."

FOOTBINDING.

When the memorial to the Emperor KWANG SU on the subject of Footbinding was being promoted among foreigners in China doubts were expressed as to whether the petition would even be received. The result has fully justified those doubts. Mr. DENBY, the Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps, through whom the memorial was transmitted to the Tsung-li Yamen, has received a despatch in reply, dated the 30th October, which, though perfectly civil, and fully recognising the good intentions of the memorialists, gives a very decided negative to the request that the memorial should be laid before the EMPRESS DOWAGER and the EMPEROR. The Board, in conveying this decision, say:—"In reply, we beg to state that the memorial of the said societies [the Tien Tsu Hui and 'International Women's Union'] evidences the fact that the object in view is to do good. But the usages and customs prevailing in China are different from those of Western countries. The binding of feet is a practice that has been in vogue for a very long time. Those who oppose the binding of their children's feet are not compelled to do so, while on the other hand those who wish to carry out the practice cannot be prevented from doing so. Custom has made the practice. Those in high authority cannot but allow the people to do as they are inclined in the matter of binding the feet of their children; they cannot be restrained by law." The Board go on to remark that for the reasons above given they find it difficult to grant Mr. DENBY's request and present the memorial to the EMPRESS DOWAGER and EMPEROR, but they add, for the consolation of the two societies who got up the memorial, that they will preserve it in the archives of the Yamen.

Such a fate might easily have been predicted for the memorial. It was foredoomed

to failure. Is it likely that so conservative a Government as that of China would listen to the petition of a few foreign ladies on such a question as the fashion of foot gear? What would Lord SALISBURY say if he were suddenly made the recipient of a petition from the women of China for presentation to Her Majesty the QUEEN on the subject of the dress of the British woman? The Chinese women would no doubt descant on what they consider the immodesty of the low-necked dress of English ladies, the danger to health involved in the exposure of the chest and lungs; and might comment at length on the deleterious effects of tight lacing in compressing the vital organs and injuring the pelvis. The British Premier would probably respond very much in the manner of the Tsung-li Yamen. While recognising the undoubted evils attending the present fashions, he would not fail to point out they came under no law, and though the QUEEN might perhaps set a fashion she could not as readily abolish one. His lordship might add, if he liked, that Her Majesty, being a great stickler for the low-necked dress as Court costume, would hardly be likely to take any initiative towards the abolition of what is a pernicious and, when carried to extreme, a not very modest fashion. The noble lord might, also, further respond by asking the women of China to remove the beam of footbinding from their own eye before clamouring for the removal of the mote from the Occidental eye. The Tsung-li Yamen might equally have made use of the *tu quoque*, but they preferred to be pleasant over the matter, and spared the memorialists the retort.

We are aware that one of the strong arguments against the practice of foot-binding is that it necessitates the torture of young and helpless female children who are not free agents in the matter. There is no doubt that the poor children endure a good deal of pain during the earlier processes of binding the feet, and it is equally certain that the result is a hideous and revolting disfigurement which renders the sufferer a cripple for life, incapacitating her for many duties and pleasures and handicapping her in the struggle for a livelihood. But the parents are fettered by custom and fashion; it cannot be supposed that they take pleasure in the torture of their little ones; and they no doubt bind their feet in the belief that they are thus rendering them eligible for marriage with persons in their own or a higher station of life. The revolution in fashion must come from within; it cannot be effected from without. So long as the Chinese male delights in seeing his spouse tottering about on these malformations it is not likely parents will discontinue the practice. The first step towards the abolition of the custom is to disgust the coming young men with the disfigurement. That may not be an easy task among the millions, but it may perhaps be effected gradually as young China comes more and more in contact with Western civilisation. But the process will be slow, as slow probably as the growth of public opinion in Europe in favour of the abolition of tight lacing and low cut bodices. It must be remembered that a fashion takes firmer hold of the people in China than it does among Western peoples. For instance, the queue, introduced by the Manchus as a badge of servitude, is now, after the lapse of centuries, worn as the national and distinguishing feature, and every Chinaman clings to it with the greatest tenacity, although it is inconvenient and uncomfortable, and places him at the mercy of a queueless opponent. No greater indignity

can be paid to a Chinaman than to deprive him of this appendage. The ancient association is forgotten except by a few would-be reformers, and no Chinaman, however anxious to be freed from its yoke, can venture to make himself singular by its renunciation. There are of course one or two exceptions, but they are so rare as to most strikingly prove the rule.

CLEANLINESS AMONGST THE CHINESE.

Misfortunes, it has been well said, often prove blessings in disguise. The outbreaks of plague in this colony, though they caused a serious increase in the death rate for a time and a great temporary loss of trade while they necessitated a large outlay in cleansing and disinfecting, were not unmixed evils. They aroused, as no advice and no warnings could have done, attention to the insanitary conditions rapidly growing up in the Chinese quarters of the city of Victoria and led to the adoption of measures for the purification of the slums, the improvement of the drainage, and the prevention of overcrowding. The enforcement of this sanitary legislation was not accomplished without inflicting some hardship, putting property owners to great expense, and coming into collision with the prejudices of the Chinese. A chorus of opposition was therefore raised, which, had not the peril of the plague been so pressing, might again have arrested the progress of sanitary legislation and laid up a still more terrible day of reckoning for the teeming thousands who in Taipingshan were daily violating nature's laws. Dirt would have gone on accumulating until, as in Chinese cities, the whole surface soil would have been saturated with poison, a nidus for every form of malaria and the development of bacteria of every sort. The slums have been cleansed and disinfected, masses of festering filth removed, and the overcrowding, which was so growing an evil, has been legislated against and rendered difficult if not impossible in the future.

Nor is this all. The Chinese have become acquainted with the virtues of disinfectants, the saving powers of a coat of limewash, and the absolute necessity of occasionally clearing out accumulations of garbage and rubbish. This is surely something gained with a race who for forty centuries have lived in a state of dirt hardly describable. All over the vast empire of China dirt is the normal condition. The testimony of travellers who have journeyed through the various provinces and had experience of the inns, of the missionaries who have lived in the interior and penetrated into the houses, and of those who have been received in the official yamens is all to the same effect, dirt in the house and dirt on the persons of the people. The Rev. A. ELWIN, a missionary, speaking at one of the meetings of the Educational Association of China during a discussion on the training of preachers, when referring to the education of girls and the want of cleanliness said it was simply impossible for a girl to keep a Chinese house clean, and in illustration stated that the floor of one house in which he often slept had not been washed for four hundred years. Another speaker said that after repeated lessons in cleanliness Chinese girls would still rub powder on the powder and dirt until often there was such a coating on them that they could not perspire. The Chinese, even in their New Year cleanings, if such a surface polish as their premises then receive

can be dignified by such a term, are more anxious to hide the dirt than to remove it. If they prepare a pageant, the gold and the tinsel invariably mask the filth beneath. In the most gorgeous procession resplendent embroideries conceal sordid rags and unwashed limbs. But if the Chinese can be taught that limewashing prevents disease germs from hanging about the walls, that frequent applications of soap and water to the floors and windows has a similar effect, they may arrive at the conclusion that soap and water applied to their skins may prove equally beneficial. Their under garments might then come in for more attention instead of often being allowed to wear out on their backs. At present the Chinese have little use for soap. Their ablutions are performed in a scanty supply of water, the same tub and towel doing duty for a houseful of people. The missionaries are trying hard in their schools to train the girls into the use of soap, and a proportion of the servants employed by foreigners learn to appreciate the utility of this article, though few take to its regular use. It is to be hoped that extended contact with Western races will do something to cure the Chinese of their distaste for soap and water, but for some decades to come, probably, the authorities in this colony will have to wage a strenuous fight with the habits ingrained into the Chinese by immemorial custom. Nevertheless there is hope for improvement, and the plague visitation has taught the Chinese their first practical lesson as to the need for cleanliness in their dwellings.

THE TUNG WA HOSPITAL.

The remarks made by the Governor to the Directors of the Tung Wa Hospital the other day will commend themselves to the community by their practical good sense. As a charitable institution the Hospital has done excellent work, but it is undoubtedly capable of improvement, and the measures decided upon by the Governor are calculated to effect improvement without materially altering the general character of the institution or estranging the Chinese. To attempt to conduct the Hospital entirely on English lines would be a mistake, for in that case the Chinese would be as unwilling to go there as they are to go to the Civil Hospital, the great majority of them having a great dread of Western medical treatment. Their absurd prejudices in that respect are not to be broken down by compulsion, and we are therefore glad to observe that while skilled treatment is to be provided at the Tung Wa for those willing to accept it those who prefer to be treated by native doctors are to be at liberty to follow their own inclination. A Chinese trained in Western medical science is to be appointed to reside at the Hospital whose services will be available for those who desire to be treated by him, and he will also act as interpreter to the Visiting Surgeon and Visiting Justices. As Visiting Surgeon it is hoped that the services may be secured of a gentleman whose whole time will be available for the work, the Colonial Surgeon's other duties preventing him giving the time and attention required. To ensure the sanitary maintenance of the institution and the cleanliness of the patients a steward is to be appointed. His Excellency's remarks might possibly convey the impression that this officer was to be a European, and it is easy to conceive the friction that would exist between the Chinese Directors and the steward were that the case. The Commission that recently reported on

the Tung Wa, however, recommended that a Chinese steward should be appointed, and it is presumably that recommendation that is to be given effect to. It is to be hoped the proposed changes and additions in the constitution to the Hospital will be readily accepted by the Chinese, for they will effect a great improvement in the institution and materially increase its usefulness.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on the 3rd December in the Council Chamber. Present:—

His EXCELLENCY the Governor, Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON, K.C.M.G.

His EXCELLENCY Major-General Black, C.B., Officer Commanding the Troops.

Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, Colonial Secretary.

Hon. H. E. POLLOCK, Acting Attorney-General.

Hon. A. M. THOMPSON, Acting Colonial Treasurer.

Hon. F. A. COOPER, Director of Public Works.

Hon. R. MURRAY RUMSEY, Harbour Master.

Hon. F. H. MAY, Captain Superintendent of Police.

Hon. C. P. CHATER.

Hon. HO KAI.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS, C.M.G.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Mr. F. J. BADELEY, Acting Clerk of Councils.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS.

His EXCELLENCY—Gentlemen, it is necessary to swear in His Excellency Major-General Wilson Black, C.B., Mr. F. H. May, Mr. Wei A Yuk, and also Mr. T. H. Whitehead on his re-election as member for the Chamber of Commerce.

The hon. members mentioned were then sworn in.

PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid upon the table the following papers—The report of the Director of the Observatory for 1895, the report of the Po Leung Kuk Society for the year 1895, the report on the progress of public works during the first half of the year 1896, the report on the progress of the Tai-pingshan Improvement works, the Government Offices Improvement Committee's report, and the report of the Commission on the Tung Wah Hospital.

GAP ROCK LIGHT DUES.

THE PRIVATE MEETING OF UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS.

His EXCELLENCY—Gentlemen, I have the honour to lay upon the table certain correspondence respecting the abolition of the special Gap Rock Light dues. I have taken the liberty of laying this paper on the table myself because I wish to say that late last night, about a quarter to six, while engaged in official work, I received a vigorous protest which was written in his usual uncompromising style by the hon. member who has just been sworn in as representative of the Chamber of Commerce. I wish to say that the charge he has brought against me of entering into private correspondence on the subject is utterly untrue. The hon. member is aware of the saying, give a misstatement twenty-four hours' start and you cannot overtake it. The correspondence was perfectly public, so public that it might have been plastered on all the walls of all the houses in Hongkong as far as I am concerned. I leave the unofficial members who are charged with holding a secret conclave and being engaged in "secret confabulations" to protect themselves from the charge. I feel sure that some of them have consulted their constituents, Dr. Ho Kai, I think, being one of them. The correspondence was perfectly public and there was no intention whatever on the part of the Government to keep it secret.

Hon. HO KAI—Although it is unusual, I wish, since you have given me permission, to say a few words on this occasion. As a certain

letter has been published by an hon. member of this Council casting a slur upon the whole of his unofficial colleagues in this Council, I think the earliest opportunity should be taken by individual members to clear themselves in public and give the true state of affairs in connection with this question. Your Excellency had referred this question of light dues to the unofficial members in the usual way. That of course, so far as the reference to unofficial members is concerned, was a policy adopted by the Government and with that I had nothing to do. Whether that is a wise policy or an unwise policy it is not for me to criticise. But since your Excellency has seen fit to send a communication to the hon. senior unofficial member, at his request we gathered together and discussed the question. Of course the meeting was not conducted as openly as meetings of this Council, and so far as I am concerned I have always advocated the policy of the public participating in the unofficial members' deliberations in any place and at any time, and I think it would be better, if there is no objection on the part of the Government, that in future unofficial gatherings should be attended by the members of the Press at all events, so that our transactions there may not be misunderstood and misrepresented at the choice of anyone. Now the facts of the case are that about a fortnight ago your Excellency sent a communication to the senior unofficial member and he at once convened a meeting by circulating a communication to us, but unfortunately I was not aware the communication was marked "Confidential." I did not know whether it was marked by the Government or not, but the mark was on the envelope, and that was explained to us as soon as I got to the first meeting. When I was asked by a member specially whether I should regard the mark "confidential" as binding upon me I at once said that I would not be bound by any marking on the envelope, since the business affected the interests of those I represent and not my own interests. I further stated that I would not only decline to regard that as confidential, but any other communication of a like nature. It referred to me not in my private capacity but as a representative of the Chinese, and I therefore would not regard it as binding on myself in any way. In that case, as in many other cases when I have received communications of that kind, I have discussed these questions with my constituents. Such were the facts as far as my position is concerned. Certainly this secret conclave does not apply to me. I assure you I never regarded such a meeting as a secret conclave. We expressed our opinions to each other as freely as we could and after every meeting it is invariably my practice to tell the leading Chinese about it. I think my unofficial colleague, Mr. Wei A Yuk, will confirm me when I say that previously no important question has been brought before the unofficial members that I would not disclose and give away. With regard to the section of the public which I have not the honour to represent, I leave it to their own representatives to give their own explanation to them. This question has been discussed at two meetings and the result communicated to your Excellency. As soon as the result was communicated I think the hon. member for the Chamber of Commerce asked leave to publish the communication.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I rise to order. I did not ask if you would agree to my publishing the communication. I had a perfect right to publish it.

Hon. HO KAI—You said you would publish it and we all said "Yes, certainly."

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Mr. Bellios did not say so?

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS—Oh, certainly.

Hon. HO KAI—I understood it was unanimously agreed that there was no objection and that we had a perfect right to publish it. Another serious charge has been brought against us and I take this opportunity, with your Excellency's permission, to publicly, emphatically, and strongly protest against an hon. member, whether official or unofficial, casting such an aspersion upon his hon. colleagues—men who are equally as if not more honourable than himself—certainly equally as honourable

and as honest—as to say that a body of men had a private interest and a motive in advocating a policy which he considered to be injurious to the colony. I say that is an aspersion which I take the first opportunity to publicly deny. So far as concerns myself I am not a large landowner, nor am I interested largely in landed property, but those whom I have represented for the last few years, as his Excellency the Governor has appointed me, have large landed interests in the colony and it is my duty to look after their interests and weigh them in conjunction with other interests, but I entirely repudiate the charge that I have acted for private and interested motives, and I can only say that aspersions and allegations of evil of that kind will not hurt the unofficial members as a body but will only rebound upon the maker and entertainer of such statements.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—Your Excellency, after the very lengthy and able remarks of my hon. friend Hon. Ho Kai I have but very little to add. I may at once inform your Excellency and the members of the Council that I affirm every word and every statement made by my hon. friend. With regard to private communications, the hon. member could not inform the Council whether there was any private communication between your Excellency and myself or between the Colonial Secretary and myself. That is a point I wish to answer for myself. I say most emphatically that I have never had any communication from his Excellency the Governor or from the Colonial Secretary which I have not immediately placed before my colleagues and half an hour after they have discussed it I have sent a reply to his Excellency. Beyond that I state most emphatically that I have never had any communication from his Excellency the Governor or from the Colonial Secretary.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Perhaps I may be permitted to make a few remarks. If I have misrepresented or made any misstatements I have done so quite unintentionally and I am very sorry for it. I submit, however, that the methods which have been followed by my hon. colleagues in discussing public questions of great importance are in my opinion irregular and unconstitutional. In referring to the correspondence as private, correspondence cannot be regarded as otherwise than private if it is not made public. Letters are sent by the Governor to the unofficial members and they meet in secret. There are no reporters present and I consider that to conduct public business in such a way is totally opposed to constitutional Government and constitutional rule. As regards the hon. member's statement that I have cast aspersions and made charges, I submit that my letters will not bear any such interpretation and that a question of public importance should not be dealt with in the way this question has been dealt with. I would refer, in respect to the assertion that the correspondence is not private, to the correspondence which passed in 1894 between the unofficial members and the Government in connection with the composition of the Sanitary Board. These documents were, as far as I am aware, private, that is to say, they did not see the light of day for a very long period of time—until over twelve months after they were written, and the community were totally unaware during all that time of what their representatives had said to the Government in their communications. If I have offended anyone I am extremely sorry as nothing was further from my intention.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I do not wish to prolong the discussion, nor is it my intention to do so, but it would throw considerable light on the matter if the hon. member would inform us if he consulted the Chamber of Commerce about this question. I have reason for saying that he did, and if that is so it would tend to show he did not regard it as private.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—The Chamber unanimously agreed to address the Government on this question and I cordially supported what they did.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Have you consulted them on the subject of this correspondence?

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—This correspondence was submitted only at a late hour at the last meeting of Committee, when it was unanimously decided to strictly adhere to the recommenda-

tion addressed to the Government, dated 31st July last, and to publish the letter from your Excellency to the senior unofficial member, but this, subsequently, was postponed for further consideration.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—Then I understand he has consulted the Committee of the Chamber and that he did not regard the correspondence as private.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I have not regarded it as private and it should not be so regarded by any hon. member.

The discussion then closed.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.

Financial minutes Nos. 11 to 26 were, on the motion of the Colonial Secretary, referred to the Finance Committee.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY brought up the report of the Finance Committee and moved its adoption.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER seconded.

Carried.

THE LIMEWASHING OF PREMISES.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I have the honour to move that the Council approve of the by-law regarding the cleansing and limewashing of premises. I may explain that this by-law has been altered to meet the convenience of the people who will be affected by it. My hon. friend opposite who represents the Chinese in this Council was consulted regarding this matter and his views were conveyed to the Sanitary Board. This by-law has been altered to meet those views and the convenience of those people who will be affected by the carrying out of the by-law.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER seconded.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—This is a move in the right direction, but I should very much like to bring forward another matter connected with it, namely, the limewashing of the houses twice a year. I think, sir, that this is rather too much. It is not only an expense to the landlords but is a source of very great inconvenience and annoyance to the tenants. May I ask your Excellency if you will suggest to the Sanitary Board the taking of this matter into consideration. I think now that the colony has been so thoroughly cleansed that limewashing once a year is sufficient for all purposes.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—The matter of limewashing twice a year has been fully considered by the Board and the Board is unanimous in the opinion that at present it would be highly prejudicial to the health of the colony to make any change in the present system of limewashing. I hope that under those circumstances the hon. member will not press his suggestion.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Will it be expensive?

Hon. C. P. CHATER—The cost is about \$2 a floor, a house of three floors would be \$6, and as there are about 10,000 houses in the colony the expenditure is very great. Besides the expense it is a source of very great inconvenience and annoyance to the tenants. They have to turn out while the limewashing is going on and I have known a great many tenants remove to empty houses in the vicinity rather than stand the limewashing operation. After the remarks of the Director of Public Works I will leave the matter in abeyance at present, trusting that as soon as the opportunity occurs the limewashing will be reduced from twice to once a year.

The by-law was then approved.

RATING ALTERATIONS.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER—I beg to move—

1.—“That the percentages on the valuation of tenements in Aberdeen at present payable as rates under *The Rating Ordinance*, 1888, as amended by Ordinance 5 of 1892 be altered from 7 per cent. to 9 per cent.”

2.—“That the percentages on the valuation of tenements in Shauiwan, East and West, at present payable as rates under *The Rating Ordinance*, 1888, as amended by Ordinance 5 of 1892 be altered from 7 to 9 per cent.”

3.—“That the percentages on the valuation of tenements, payable as rates, levied within the sea bounded—

On the North, by the Harbour.

On the South, by the contour of the hill-side 600 feet above sea level.

On the East, by a straight line from North Point to the western end of the Taitam tunnel and produced to meet the southern boundary.

On the West, by the eastern boundary of the City of Victoria, be altered from 7 per cent. to 9 per cent.” The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Carried.

ARMS AND AMMUNITION.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Your Excellency, I rise to ask a question:—“Will the Government inform the Council whether the Police Department continues to furnish the Imperial Chinese Maritime Customs with information concerning permits issued for the export from the colony of arms and ammunition?” With your Excellency's permission I would mention that you were good enough to cause me to be favoured with an answer some little time after the last meeting of Council, which answer was duly communicated by me to the firms interested in this trade, and they very much appreciated the fact that your Excellency then gave an answer instead of leaving it over till the next Council meeting. If your Excellency has no objection I will pass the correspondence on the subject to the press for publication. I have a copy of it here.

HIS EXCELLENCY—Oh, yes.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—The correspondence to which the hon. member refers might have been handed to the press when it was written. I do not know what the reason of the delay is. The reply to the hon. member's question is no.

THE GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH.

HIS EXCELLENCY read his opening speech, which was as follows:—

Honourable Gentlemen of the Legislative Council,—The time having arrived when it is usual to convene the Legislative Council for the purpose of discharging those important duties which annually devolve upon it, I gladly resort to you for assistance and advice. The pleasure of meeting you again is enhanced by the satisfactory state of public affairs, especially as regards the finances of the colony.

Before proceeding to deal with that and other interesting matters, I have to express the gratification which it affords me, and which I am sure you all share, to welcome the presence at this table of His Excellency Major-General Black and Mr. Wei A Yuk, as official and unofficial members respectively of this Council. The course of events which brought about this change in the constitution of the Legislative Council is still fresh in your memory. I shall not refer to them in detail, but content myself with remarking that as His Excellency the General Officer Commanding is to administer the Government during the absence at any time of the Governor, it is obviously advantageous to the colony that he should occupy a seat in the Legislative Council, while the appointment of Mr. Wei A Yuk, a resident highly respected in Hongkong, will, it is hoped, bring the Government into still closer touch with the Chinese community, which forms such an important element in the population of the colony.

The constitution of the Executive Council has also undergone a change, which was recommended by me and approved by the Secretary of State. It now consists of two unofficial members, Mr. Chater and Mr. Bell-Irving, in addition to the official members who previously composed it. You will agree with me in the opinion that the colony is to be congratulated on this reconstruction, which has strengthened the Executive by the addition of two able advisers, whose experience, especially on matters affecting the commercial welfare of Hongkong, cannot fail to be of the highest value at all times to me and to my successors in office.

Turning now to the orders of the day, the first item which claims attention is a Bill entitled “An Ordinance to appropriate a percentage of seventeen and a half per centum of the Colonial revenues as a contribution for the defence of the colony.”

This Bill is the outcome of lengthy correspondence and negotiations with which you are familiar, and it is introduced under instructions from the Secretary of State. I may mention that the unofficial members have recently forwarded a memorial praying that the contribu-

tion may be again fixed at the former figure of 240,000. I can, however, hold out no hope that this request of the unofficial members will be acceded to. I have no option therefore but to ask you to pass this Bill into law, and so finally settle the much-vexed question of the Military Contribution.

The next item of importance, and indeed the most pressing one on the order paper, is the Appropriation Bill for 1897.

From the draft Estimates, which have been in your hands for some time, and which I now lay upon the table, you will have observed that the revenue for 1897 is estimated to yield \$2,438,823. This estimate has been arrived at with due caution; it is less than the actual revenue for 1895 and the probable total for the current year, and I have every reason to expect that it will be realised. The various items do not, I think, call for any special remark at this stage. The total expenditure for 1897 is estimated at \$2,769,083, but of this \$368,000 is chargeable to the Loan. The estimated sum chargeable to current revenue is therefore \$2,401,083, or \$37,740 less than the estimated revenue.

The principal increases in expenditure, as compared with the Estimates for 1896, appear under the following heads:—

1. Public Works Extraordinary chargeable to Loan	\$170,800
2. Military Expenditure	30,079
3. Pensions	26,000
4. Public Works Recurrent	23,300
5. Post Office	22,181
6. Public Debt	11,447
7. Sanitary Department	9,800
8. Medical Department	4,542

The increase in military expenditure is due partly to an increase of \$9,000 in the amount set apart for "Barrack Services," but chiefly to increased (estimated) revenue. Only \$61,000 of the estimated total military expenditure is included in the Appropriation Bill, viz., \$49,000 for Barrack Services and \$12,000 for the Volunteers, as the Bill to which I have already referred and which is designed purposely to remove the question of voting the Defence Contribution from the arena of yearly debate, will provide for the appropriation of 17½ per cent. of the revenue, less premia on land sales, to meet that contribution.

The increase under the item of Public Works Recurrent is accounted for chiefly by the cost of maintaining the new waterworks at Shaukiwan and Aberdeen, and increased cost of maintenance of roads and bridges, and of the repairs to buildings which will probably be necessary during next year.

The additional charge on account of the Public Debt is due to the increase in the contribution to the Sinking Fund, which commenced only in October last.

The large increase in the cost of the Sanitary Department calls for some special explanation.

It has been found that the present staff of inspectors is not sufficient to provide for the inspection of the Chinese houses with the frequency and regularity which are necessary. The Sanitary Board has accordingly recommended, and the Secretary of State has sanctioned, the appointment of two more inspectors of nuisances, with the necessary additional interpreters and foremen of street cleansers. The salaries for these new appointments, with various stipulated increments in the pay of other officers, and the salary of a temporary clerk who was appointed in April, 1895, and whose salary does not appear in the 1896 estimates, accounts for the increase in personal emoluments, while the increase under "other charges" is principally due to the higher figures at which the scavenging contracts are let.

The increase under the heading "Post Office" is due entirely to estimated increase in transit charges, or the sum which this colony has to pay for the conveyance of its mail matter. This increase need cause no alarm; on the other hand it is a matter of congratulation, for it indicates an estimated expansion of business and consequent increase of profit.

The increase in the cost of the Medical Departments is owing to the appointment of an Assistant Surgeon in place of the Medical Officer of the Gaol, at a higher salary; to the

appointment of an additional Sister, and to well deserved increases in the pay of Dr. Lowson and the Analyst and Assistant Analyst, and a few minor appointments, including the Chinese staff for the new Isolation Hospital.

Economies have been effected as opportunity offered, on the lines suggested by the Retrenchment Committee, but such opportunities have been rare.

The rate of exchange for the estimates for 1897 has been taken at 2/1, the same rate as was taken for 1896, which may be regarded as a safe rate so far as the word "safe" can be applied to exchange.

If any further information is desired with regard to the Estimates it will be furnished in Finance Committee or when the Council is in Committee on the Bill. I have now only to ask you, gentlemen, to vote the sum necessary to defray the charges for the coming year.

I will now make a few remarks upon the general condition of the colony financially and otherwise.

The total estimated revenue for 1896 was \$2,288,366. Of this sum \$2,120,680 had been collected up to the end of October, and the total revenue will probably be about \$2,495,000, while the total expenditure chargeable to revenue will be about \$2,445,000, leaving a surplus of revenue over expenditure of \$50,000.

The increase in receipts over the amount which was estimated is principally due to premia on land sales, which have yielded already over \$250,000 as against an estimated total for the whole year of \$70,000.

There are also noticeable increases in the receipts up to the 31st October, under the headings "Light Dues," "Licences and Internal Revenue not otherwise specified" and "Post Office," over the estimated receipts up to that date.

The principal items of unforeseen expenditure, which were not provided for in the estimates for 1896, are \$20,000 for a new floating engine for the Fire Brigade and \$70,200 for expenses incurred in connection with the repression of the plague.

Turning now to the question of the health and sanitation of the colony, the present year will be a memorable one owing to the unfortunate recurrence of the disease known as bubonic plague, which was so disastrous in 1894. The outbreak commenced early in the year, the disease was at its worst stage in April and May, and was not finally stamped out till the end of September. The total number of cases brought to notice was 1,204, of which 1,097 ended fatally. The Europeans attacked numbered 15, of whom 7, including two soldiers and one inspector of nuisances, succumbed to the disease. Sister Catherine, one of the two sisters who were engaged in nursing at the Plague Hospital, was also attacked by the disease, but fortunately recovered. The largest number of fresh cases in one week was 100, from the 23rd to 30th May, and the greatest number of deaths was 87, for the week ending 9th May.

During the whole of this period the Sanitary Board and its staff, ably assisted by members of the police and of the garrison, whose services were kindly lent, and all those connected with the work of suppressing the plague, were untiring in their efforts, and they deserve great credit for their zeal and energy. It is perhaps too much to hope that disease will not again visit this colony, and we must, I fear, be prepared for its re-appearance in spite of every effort to prevent it.

It is satisfactory to record that though many of the wealthier Chinese sent their wives and families to the mainland, there was no general exodus of the population such as occurred in 1894, and business proceeded much as usual. Dr. Yersin and Dr. Kitasato, whose names and attainments are so well known, have each prepared an antitoxin for the treatment of the plague, and I am taking steps to secure a supply of the preparation. Finally, I cannot dismiss the subject of the plague without recording the colony's indebtedness to the Medical Department of this colony, including the Sisters, Dr. Wilm, of the Imperial German Navy, whose services were kindly lent by Admiral Hoffman also rendered invaluable assistance throughout in treating the patients at the Kennedytown Hospital, of which he was in charge, and by his

scientific investigations, which, it is hoped, will prove of much benefit in dealing with this terrible disease. Many useful measures have been undertaken by the Sanitary Board with a view to the prevention of overcrowding and for the improvement of the sanitary condition of the native quarters of the city. This question, however, is of so difficult a nature that I have appointed a Commission to enquire into the existence of insanitary properties and to report on the best mode of dealing with them. The matter is now under their consideration. The colony is to be congratulated on its immunity from any outbreak of cholera such as has visited the sister colony of Singapore.

A typhoon of unusual severity swept over the colony on the 29th July last. It caused great damage to property, but fortunately, owing to the timely warning of its approach given by the Director of the Observatory, the loss of life was not great.

Improvements have been made in the condition of the Tung-wah Hospital. The desirability of reforming that institution has formed the subject of enquiry and report by a Commission. I am in possession of their views on the matter and am devoting my earnest attention to the question, which is one of considerable difficulty and delicacy.

With regard to the constitution of the Sanitary Board I regret that I am not yet in possession of the Secretary of State's final decision, which, however, I hope to receive shortly.

As regards Public Works, the extension of the Wongneichong Recreation Ground has been undertaken and is progressing. The project includes the widening and improving of the roads and an addition to the Recreation Ground of about 7½ acres.

The extension of the Gaol has been proceeded with and accommodation has been provided within the Gaol compound for a prison for females, instead of the unsuitable house in Wyndham Street hitherto rented for that purpose.

The provision of an adequate supply of water to the City of Victoria has received my careful attention, and projects have been prepared for an ultimate supply of 4,000,000 gallons a day throughout the year. The present state of the water supply and particulars of the proposed extensions have been dealt with in an able and elaborate report by the Director of Public Works which has already been laid before you (Sessional Paper 1896). That report has been referred to Mr. Osbert Chadwick, who concurs in the proposals contained therein. The Secretary of State has communicated to me his approval of the scheme, and contracts have been entered into, with the approval of this Council, for the commencement of the works. The waterworks for Kowloon have also been completed, and a constant supply is now available over the southern portion of that peninsula.

The new system of signalling the approach of vessels has been completed in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee appointed in 1893.

The statue of the Queen in commemoration of Her Most Gracious Majesty's Jubilee has been erected on the Praya Reclamation and was unveiled by me on the 28th May amidst general rejoicings and loyal demonstrations.

With respect to Taipingshan, considerable progress has been made with the demolition of insanitary dwellings, and the necessary works for relaying out the resumed area for building purposes. Contracts have been entered into for dealing with about one-half of the resumed area and works in connection with the greater part of the remainder will shortly be commenced. A report on the subject will be laid on the table, to which I direct your attention; as the anticipations which I was led to form this time last year have not been fulfilled.

As to the Praya Reclamation Works, though difficulties have arisen in connection with the rapid completion of certain portions, fair progress has been made. The marine lot holders have, in several instances, obtained permission to enter into their portions, and fine buildings are in course of erection on some of the land reclaimed.

In addition to the foregoing works, the condition of the villages has not been overlooked, and works of drainage, water supply, and

general improvements have been completed; whilst others are in hand in Shankiwan, Aberdeen, Mong-kok-tsui, and Tai-kok-tsui. The requirements of the increasing population of the Hill District have not been lost sight of, and it is proposed at an early date to commence the construction of an improved road from near Victoria Gap to the Mount Kellet Road.

The increasing requirements of the colony in the matter of Government offices and the question of providing new offices and concentrating them, so far as possible, under one roof, appeared to me to call for a special enquiry. I referred the matter accordingly to a Committee, whose report I have just received. That report will be published.

With respect to Education I regret to say that the experiences of the year have been somewhat unfortunate. The recurrence of the plague, and the measures taken to prevent overcrowding, together with the rise in house rents resulting from those measures, caused a large number of Chinese, as I have already said, to send their women and children out of the colony. The attendance at schools by Chinese children, and more particularly girls' schools, decreased considerably; the decrease amounting to probably 30 per cent. of their normal attendance. The attendance at five Chinese schools ceased entirely and the schools had to be closed, but as three new schools have been opened in places unaffected by plague and its consequences the total number of schools under the Education Department is 119 as compared with 121 in 1895. The above unsatisfactory experiences have been confined almost entirely to schools attended by the poorer classes of the native population. The other schools, especially those attended by non-Chinese children, have for the most part retained their normal attendance. Efforts are being made to increase the number of schools offering English teaching to natives, but only one school of this description could be opened during the present year. Steps have been taken, however, to improve the teaching of English at Queen's College, and in order to allow more time for that purpose the purely Chinese branch of that establishment has been entirely abolished.

With regard to shipping, Hongkong continues to hold an important position amongst the ports of the Empire. During the nine months ending 30th September last, over 8,000 ships of European construction entered and cleared at the Harbour Office, bringing and taking away cargoes amounting to nearly 55 per cent. of their registered tonnage, and conveying to and from the colony 1,026,469 passengers.

In addition to these, 53,000 trading junks carried 1,309,338 tons of cargo in and out, and conveyed 161,991 passengers.

Compared with the same period of 1895 this means an increase of 412 European constructed vessels, carrying 233,675 more tons of cargo, and an increase of over 8,600 junks with 125,638 tons of cargo, and a total increase in the passenger traffic amounting to 1,986.

A correspondence with the unofficial members in regard to the proposed abolition of the light dues levied to cover the cost and maintenance of Gap Rock Lighthouse will be laid on the Council table.

I consider that I am bound to redeem the pledge given by my predecessor to the effect that this special rate should cease as soon as the cost of the lighthouse had been defrayed.

With a view of covering the deficit which will result from this abolition five of the six unofficial members are of opinion that a fixed charge of 24 pence per ton should in future be imposed as light dues on all shipping entering the harbour, and in that opinion I concur.

The criminal statistics are highly satisfactory. Comparing the number of cases under various headings for the 12 months ending 31st October, 1896, with those for the preceding twelve months, we find decreases of 21 per cent. in robberies from the person, 53 per cent. in burglaries and larcenies from dwellings, 30 per cent. in cases of obtaining money under false pretences, 37 per cent. in cases of unlawful possession, and 7 per cent. in larcenies. There were 25 cases of wilful wounding as against 17 in the preceding period; and 14 more cases under the Women and Girls' Protection Ordin-

ance than in the previous 12 months. The increases under various other heads are trifling and the number of murder cases was the same for both periods.

The new home of the Pó Léung Kùk, or Society for the Protection of Women and Girls, was opened by me on the 13th of November. Government contributed towards the cost of its erection a sum of \$20,000. The Society has already done good work, and it is hoped, that now it is in possession of a home, it will be able not only to continue its labours, but to carry them on more efficiently. It gives me pleasure at all times to aid the Chinese community of this colony in charitable work, such as that of protecting those who are not able to protect themselves, and I shall always be ready to give them what assistance lies in my power to render such work as thorough as possible.

From the foregoing remarks, gentlemen, you will gather that on the whole the condition of the colony socially, politically, and financially, is very satisfactory. We have had during the term of my government two visitations of plague. We have had strikes, several typhoons, and on one occasion a vast and unparalleled exodus of people, but Hongkong has held its own with wonderful vitality. Government has not harassed the community with unnecessary or vexatious legislation. The law has been enforced whenever it was necessary, but the community, speaking generally, is happily a law abiding one. The revenue has increased and is increasing with the growth of population, and the only drawback to a wider and more extensive outlook is the limited area of the colony itself.

In conclusion, gentlemen, you will believe me when I say that as long as I remain here—and for how much longer that may be I cannot tell—I shall continue to co-operate with you in any measures having for their object the public good. I pray that your deliberations under the blessing of God may conduce not only to the honour of Her Majesty the Queen, but to the increased happiness and welfare of the entire community of this Her Majesty's possession in the Far East.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES.

His EXCELLENCY—I will now appoint the following Committees:—Finance Committee:—The Colonial Secretary, Chairman; all the Members of Council, except the Governor.

Law Committee:—The Attorney-General, Chairman; Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Hon. Ho Kai, Hon. E. R. Belilios, Hon. Wei Yuk.

Public Works Committee:—The Director of Public Works, Chairman; the Colonial Treasurer, Hon. C. P. Chater, E. R. Belilios, Hon. T. H. Whitehead.

THE REVENUE AND THE MILITARY CONTRIBUTION.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I have listened with very keen interest to your Excellency's exhaustive address, which will receive careful consideration. When the Council is in Finance Committee on the Estimates I should like to be informed how it arises, that with a less total revenue for 1897, viz., \$2,438,000, as against the revised estimated revenue for 1896, viz., \$2,495,000, that the military contribution payable for 1897 will be \$30,000 more than may be paid in 1896. It is true that \$9,000 more is required to be contributed for barrack services, but I should like to receive an explanation as to the increase of \$21,000 in the contribution towards military purposes, seeing that the 1897 revenue is estimated at \$56,000 less than for 1896.

THE MILITARY CONTRIBUTION BILL.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—In moving the first reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to appropriate a percentage of seventeen and a half per centum of the Colonial revenues as a contribution for the defence of the colony, I trust your Excellency will allow me, as this is probably the last time that I shall have an opportunity of addressing this Council, to offer a few remarks upon this very important subject. I fully recognise, sir, and appreciate the strenuous efforts of the unofficial members of this Council to curtail, so far as they possibly can, the expenditure of this colony, but, sir, it seems to me that this question is not a local question, but a matter of Imperial interest, and it must be dealt with as such. We have no right, sir, I think, to look upon this matter as

purely a question of the internal position of this colony; but we must consider the point as an Imperial question and we must deal with it in a broad and comprehensive spirit. (Hear, hear.) We have heard, sir, from home, and we have received a telegram within the last few days adding to our previous information upon the subject, that the people of England, the people of Great Britain, are at the present moment engaged in strenuous efforts to make our country strong and able to hold her own in the future as she has done in the past. (Applause.) I think, sir, I am right in saying that the people of Great Britain have this year shown a disposition to contribute and to contribute liberally, to the defence of the Empire of which we are all so proud, and I am sorry, sir, that it may appear from the memorandum of the unofficial members of this Council that Hongkong is not equally willing to bear her share in the burden of the Empire. I speak, sir, in this Council as an Englishman, who is proud of the traditions of his country, and I am sure that not only every member of this Council but every British subject in this colony must have rejoiced and felt glad when he received the news that the people in the old country were freely contributing towards the defence of the Empire. Of course, sir, I quite recognize the fact that there is a local aspect of this question to be considered as well as an Imperial aspect, but looking to what we see going on around us out here in the East, looking at the fact that it is necessary out here at the present moment not only that our merchants and men of business should be active and intelligent but also that we should have upon the spot an armament of considerable strength—looking to that fact, sir, I feel it to be a very great misfortune that at the present moment the unofficial members of this Council should not see their way to allow this money, the military contribution of 17½ per cent., to be voted without opposition. (Applause.)

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Exclude the municipal revenue and I am quite willing.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Of course if he excludes the municipal revenue I take it the contribution would be much less.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Increase the percentage if necessary, but let us have justice.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The hon. member speaks about justice and so on, but as I have already said, it seems to me the question is whether we are willing to contribute freely towards the defence of the Empire, and I think it would be evidence of our willingness to contribute towards that defence if the members of this Council unanimously voted this money. I think, sir, it is of paramount importance that we should be well protected in the Far East, that our navy should be kept at a high standard, and that we should have a strong Imperial garrison in Hongkong. I hope these few words of mine—I am sorry that I have not the eloquence of some of the other members of the Council to express myself better—I hope that the unofficial members of the Council will give some weight to the few words I have spoken and I hope they will, if possible, reconsider their determination and that they will vote this money, this contribution for the defence of the Empire.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER seconded.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I rise, sir, to move that the further consideration of this Bill be postponed until a reply has been received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the last memorandum of the unofficial members on the subject. I concur in much that has fallen from the lips of the Acting Attorney-General in regard to the necessity for England being fortified and in a position, not only on sea but on land, to hold her own against any adverse combination. At the same time I submit that this colony should and has the right to claim to be placed on the same basis as Singapore has been placed, and no portion of our municipal revenue should be attached by the Imperial Government for Imperial military purposes.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—I have to second the amendment which the hon. member who represents the Chamber of Commerce has proposed. As your Excellency pointed out in your opening address the unofficial

members have sent a memorandum to the Secretary of State for the Colonies asking that the military contribution should be as it has been for the past ten years, namely, £240,000, instead of what it is proposed to be in the Ordinance now before us. In spite of the remarks made by the hon. the Attorney-General, with which I for one quite agree, I think, sir, in justice to the unofficial members an answer to our memorandum ought to be received and we ought to have time to discuss the answer before we agree to the first reading of the Bill. Therefore, sir, I beg to second the amendment of the hon. member for the Chamber of Commerce.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—On behalf of the Government I regret very much that delay is impossible. I do not think that any hon. member of this Council will for a moment deny that this Government has given the question every consideration, and has afforded every opportunity possible to every member of the Council to have this question put before the Secretary of State. Therefore, to come forward now that this Government has given all these opportunities and to try and burk this Bill, as hon. members are trying to do, does not, I think, reflect credit on those Imperial instincts which the hon. member on my right informs me they possess. The representative of the Chamber of Commerce smiles. I congratulate him upon his smile, but I would like to know whether he has consulted the leading members of the community on this question.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I have consulted the leading members of the community, and a very large number of them. They quite agree with what the unofficial members have done and have stated, viz., that we should be placed on the same basis as Singapore.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I am glad to hear that the hon. member has consulted the leading members of the community. All I can say is that those views are not the same as I have heard expressed; they are entirely opposite.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Will you kindly give names?

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I do not think it is necessary for me to give names; I am stating what are facts. It is a feature of this discussion that the two members representing the Chinese have made no opposition and have not joined their unofficial colleagues in opposing this Bill.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Hon. Ho Kai signed the document on the subject.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—That is a fact which is perfectly well known to Hon. Ho Kai and this Council. I can see no reason for the delay, and if the hon. member had listened as carefully to your Excellency's address as he said he did he would have heard that your Excellency could hold out no hope that their memorandum would be entertained, and I have no doubt that your Excellency has very good grounds for that statement.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—With your Excellency's permission I should just like to make one remark and that is on the subject of a word used by the hon. Colonial Secretary, namely, to "burk" this Bill. My object is not to burk this Bill. He says that we have had every opportunity for discussing the Bill for some time past. So we have, and the purport of our discussion is the memorandum forwarded to the Secretary of State. All I ask is that the consideration of this Bill, or rather the first reading of this Bill, should not take place until we have had an answer from the Secretary of State. I have no object in burking the Bill.

Hon. HO KAI—I was about to rise to support the amendment when the Colonial Secretary rose; otherwise there would have been no statement about my silence. My supporting the amendment does not show that I am unwilling to contribute towards an increased contribution to the Imperial Government. On the other hand, we want more security for the defence of our position abroad and at home and we shall have to pay for it. The only thing I object to in this case is the unfair position in which we have been placed. That is to say, we are placed in a position distinctly different from that of Singapore. Seventeen and a half per cent. has been charged on both colonies, but on the one hand the municipal

rates were excepted, while in the case of Hongkong our municipal rates have been included. Now we are fighting a difficult question and a principle, and fighting for a principle does not in the least, I submit, make us half hearted to what tends to the protection of the glorious Empire to which we all belong. (Applause.)

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—The objection to this Bill is that so far no good reasons have been shown why we should not be placed on the same footing as Singapore. May I point out to the unofficial members that very good reasons have been shown by the Secretary of State in the correspondence that took place in 1895 why this colony should be placed on a different footing from Singapore in this matter. The simple reason is that the revenue of Singapore is about three times the revenue of this colony, and although the municipal revenue is eliminated still they get a large contribution. If you eliminated what is called municipal revenue here—but there happens to be no such thing—you get a less contribution. I understand the unofficial members are quite ready to pay and I am not in the least surprised to hear that they are as patriotic as any of us here. The hon. member representing the Chamber of Commerce has even said that if you eliminate the municipal revenue he does not at all object to an increase of the percentage. It seems to me it is six of one and half a dozen of the other. The question is, how much are we going to pay, and I do not think it matters much whether you include municipal revenue or exclude it and make it twenty odd per cent.

The amendment was then put, with the following result:—

AYES.		NOES.	
Hon. E. R. Belilios	Hon. Wei A Yuk		
Hon. Ho Kai	Hon. F. H. May		
Hon. C. P. Chater	The Harbour Master		
Hon. T. H. Whitehead	The Director of Public Works		
	The Acting Colonial Treasurer		
	The Acting Attorney-General		
	The Colonial Secretary		
	H.E. Major-General Black		

The amendment was therefore lost, and the motion for the first reading of the Bill was then put and carried.

FIRST READING OF BILLS.

The following Bills were read a first time:—
A Bill entitled An Ordinance to apply a sum not exceeding Two Millions Three hundred and Fifty-nine thousand Seven hundred and Eighty-nine dollars to the Public Service of the Year 1897.

A Bill entitled An Ordinance to declare and amend the Law of Partnership.

A Bill entitled An Ordinance to further amend "The Post Office Ordinance, 1887."

A Bill entitled An Ordinance to provide for compensation being paid to Pawnbrokers in certain cases.

A Bill entitled An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Probates and Letters of Administration in this Colony.

THE ARRANGEMENT OF SEATS.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—May I be allowed to draw your Excellency's attention for one moment to the re-arrangement of the seats at this table and to suggest that the Government follow a similar course to that pursued in Singapore and elsewhere in the East, and that is that the hon. official members take the head of the table and the unofficial members the foot of the table as is done in nearly all the Crown colonies. I think it is very desirable and would facilitate public business.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—The suggestion of the hon. member will be taken into consideration. I do not know what has prompted it. The combination of the unofficials and officials has worked harmoniously, and so far as I am aware it has not hampered, hindered, or interfered in any way with the conduct of public business.

H.E. Major-General BLACK—In Jamaica we sat nearly as we are at present and I believe business was facilitated thereby, because you can get good information. I wish I was sitting next to my hon. friend Mr. Chater, as I would then get plenty of information. (Laughter.)

ADJOURNMENT.

His EXCELLENCY adjourned the Council until next Monday.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the Legislative Council. Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart (Colonial Secretary) presided and all the members were present. The following votes were recommended:—

No. 11.—A sum of \$3,000 to meet the expenditure for the sewerage of the City of Victoria.
No. 12.—A sum of \$10,000 to meet the probable further expenditure in connection with the water and drainage works for the current year.

No. 13.—A sum of \$4,000 to meet the expenditure for the erection of a Matron's House at the Gaol and other alterations necessary to convert a portion of the buildings into a female prison.

No. 15.—A sum of \$3,000 in aid of the vote for "Miscellaneous Works" (Public Works Annually Recurrent).

No. 14.—The sum of \$20,000 for the construction of a new floating fire engine.

No. 16.—A sum of \$808.50 for the purchase of blank charges and friction tubes for use at the Fog Signal Station, Gap Rock.

No. 17.—A sum of (\$500), in aid of the vote for "Repairs to Epidemic Hulk Hygiene" (Harbour Department).

(Note.—Increased cost due to re-mooring the hulk after the recent typhoon.)

No. 18.—A sum of \$25,000 to meet the following expenses during the current year:—Repairs to buildings \$18,000; repairs to roads, City of Victoria \$5,000, out of Victoria \$1,000, Kowloon 1,000.

No. 19.—A sum of \$2,000 in aid of the vote for "Incidental Expenses" in the Police Department.

No. 20.—A sum of \$650 in aid of the vote "Incidental Expenses," Sanitary Department, for the current year.

(Note.—Increased cost due to the enforcement of By-law No. 6 under the provisions of Ordinance No. 15 of 1894.)

No. 21.—A sum of \$300 in aid of the votes (a) Forage for horses, \$160; and (b) Meals for prisoners in cells, \$140; for November and December, 1896.

No. 22.—A sum of \$336 for the salaries of the Chinese staff at the new Kowloon Animal Depot.

No. 23.—A sum of \$5,000 for raising the Praya Wall at Sheklongtsui opposite Marine Lots Nos. 126 and 177 to 183.

No. 24.—A sum of \$70,000 for expenses incurred in connection with the plague.

No. 25.—A sum of \$3,605.10 to meet the following expenses:—

Health Officer's Office.—Coal, &c. \$120.
Government Civil Hospital.—Provisions \$1,830, Surgical Instruments \$285, Medical Comforts \$300, Light and Fuel \$800, Washing \$120, Incidental Expenses \$150, Water Account \$30.

No. 26.—A sum of \$4,600 to cover the amount under-estimated in respect of "Miscellaneous Services Other."

ADJOURNMENT.

The Committee then adjourned.

A meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held on the 7th December in the Council Chamber. Present:—

His EXCELLENCY the Governor, Sir WILLIAM ROBINSON, K.C.M.G.

His EXCELLENCY Major-General BLACK, C.B., Officer Commanding the Troops.

Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, Colonial Secretary.

Hon. H. E. POLLOCK, Acting Attorney-General.

Hon. A. M. THOMSON, Acting Colonial Treasurer.

Hon. F. A. COOPER, Director of Public Works.

Hon. R. MURRAY RUMSEY, Harbour Master.

Hon. F. H. MAY, Captain Superintendent of Police.

Hon. C. P. CHATER.

Hon. HO KAI.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hon. E. R. BELILIOS, C.M.G.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Mr. F. J. BADELEY, Acting Clerk of Council.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

FINANCE.

Finance minute No. 27 was referred to the Finance Committee, and the report of the Finance Committee was adopted.

TAIPINGSHAN.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD gave notice of the following question—Will the Government lay upon the table an estimate as to the probable total cost of doing what is necessary to be done to the resumed area of Taipingshan before the lots can be put up to auction, and state the further probable time required to overtake the work?

THE OPIUM FARM.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD gave notice of the following question—In view of the present Opium Farm expiring in the spring of 1898, will the Government appoint a commission with full powers to investigate and report on the opium revenue generally, and upon the advisability or otherwise of substituting for the present Opium Farm bonded warehouses and a fixed duty on all opium not *bona fide* exported in a raw state.

THE MILITARY CONTRIBUTION BILL.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I rise to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to appropriate a percentage of seventeen and a half per centum of the Colonial revenues, as a contribution for the defence of the colony. As I addressed the Council at some length at our last meeting I propose only to say a few words now in order to remove a curious misapprehension which would appear to have arisen. It has been suggested, sir, in some quarters that by the remarks which I made at the last meeting of this Council I intended to throw some doubt upon the patriotism of some of the members of the Council. I can only say that I entirely repudiate any such idea; such a notion never entered into my head for a single instant. On the contrary, I expressly appealed to those feelings of patriotism which I felt confident must animate the unofficial members of the Council equally with myself. I should like in conclusion, sir, to say a few words in order to remove a misapprehension which may possibly exist upon another point. I desire to say, for the information of the members of this Council and the public, that in the remarks which I made at the last meeting of this Council I spoke entirely without any communication whatever either with your Excellency or with any other member of this Council. I only expressed, what I conceive I had a perfect right to express, my own personal views as an individual member of this Council. I feel very strongly, sir, upon the Imperial aspect of this question, an aspect which I fear is in danger of being somewhat disregarded, and it was for that reason, sir, that I ventured to lay before the Council at the last meeting the convictions I entertained and the reasons for which I entertained those convictions. With these remarks, sir, I beg to move the second reading of this Bill.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—I ask your Excellency to put the resolution to the vote.

The resolution was then put with the following result—

FOR.

Hon. Wei A Yuk

The Captain Superintendent of Police

The Harbour Master

The Director of Public Works

The Acting Colonial Treasurer

The Acting Attorney-General

The Colonial Secretary

His Excellency the General

Bill read the second time.

Council went into Committee on the Bill.

On clause 3 being read as follows—"The Colonial revenues for the purposes of this Ordinance shall include the gross receipts by the colony from all sources of revenue, but shall not include the proceeds of land sales and premia on leases."

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD proposed the ad-

dition of the words "which in its character is not purely municipal" after the words "sources of revenue."

Hon. HO KAI seconded.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD remarked—I think it is well that hon. members should know that 17½ per cent. of our gross revenue, less land sales, is a higher percentage than is paid by any other Crown colony in her Majesty's dominions. Why should this colony be asked to pay such an exorbitant sum? A large portion of the revenue is derived from productive public works, to carry out which we had to borrow money and that borrowed money has not yet been repaid to the lenders.

The amendment was then put to the vote.

FOR.

Hon. Wei A Yuk

Hon. E. R. Belilios

Hon. T. H. Whitehead

Hon. Ho Kai

Hon. C. P. Chater

AGAINST.

The Captain Superintendent of Police

The Harbour Master

The Director of Public Works

The Acting Colonial Treasurer

The Acting Attorney-General

The Colonial Secretary

H.E. the General

The amendment was therefore lost and the clause was carried.

Clause 5 read—"The said percentage shall be deemed to be a fixed contribution payable by the colony in full return for the annual cost of the Imperial garrison, including the cost of maintenance of all military works and buildings, but not including any capital expenditure required for military lands and buildings, provided that in no year shall the sum paid by way of percentage exceed the cost of the garrison for that year."

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD suggested the addition of the words "nor cost of armament" after the words "military lands and buildings"

A vote was taken, the result being the same as in the previous vote.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER—I think the title is rather tautological and I suggest that the words "a percentage" be struck out and that the words "a sum equivalent to" be substituted.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to second. The alteration was agreed to.

Council resumed.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the third reading of the Bill.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I think the third reading of the Bill may be held over until the next meeting of the Council. We have only had a few days to consider this measure. Our last meeting was on the 3rd and to-day is the 7th. I think the amendments are worthy of further consideration.

His EXCELLENCY—I will send the amendments home to the Secretary of State, but there can be no further discussion on the Bill now.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to second the third reading of the Bill. There have been no material alterations made. Amendments have been suggested, but not carried.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD pointed out that the standing rules stated that the third reading could not be taken on the same day as the second reading if any member objected.

His EXCELLENCY—I understand the hon. member does object to the third reading.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I do object.

His EXCELLENCY—I do not think we can object to that.

Bill held over.

THE APPROPRIATION BILL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to move the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to apply a sum not exceeding Two Million Three hundred and Fifty-nine thousand Seven hundred and Eighty-nine Dollars to the Public Service of the Year 1897.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER—I beg to second.

Bill read a second time and referred to the Finance Committee.

THE PARTNERSHIP ORDINANCE.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to declare and amend the Law of Partnership. The object of this Ordinance is to introduce into this colony the provisions of the Imperial Partnership Act of 1890. That Act em-

bodies a convenient and well arranged digest of the principal rules of law relating to partnerships, and this Bill is almost entirely a transcript of its provisions, very slight modifications having been required to adapt it to the circumstances of the colony.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Bill read the second time and referred to the Law Committee.

THE POST OFFICE ORDINANCE.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to further amend "The Post Office Ordinance, 1887." The objects and reasons of this Bill are attached and I have nothing to add.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER seconded.

Bill read the second time.

Council went into Committee on the Bill.

Bill read clause by clause.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I think it is very mischievous to place the power to punish any officer of the Post Office except the Assistant Postmaster-General in the hands of the Postmaster-General. The accuser in most cases would be the Postmaster and he would be the judge of what he accuses the individual. He would decide and there would be no appeal to any Court. I submit it would be very much better for the Postmaster-General to take the cases before the Police Magistrate and allow him to decide in the ordinary way.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER—Misconduct cannot be taken before the Police Magistrate. There is no law regulating misconduct.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—In all offices there is misconduct and I submit we can control misconduct in the Post Office without imposing fines.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER—The Captain Superintendent of Police and the Gaol Superintendent have similar powers.

Hon. HO KAI—The hon. member might devote his attention to the third paragraph, which reads, "The imposition of every such punishment shall be reported without delay to the Governor, who shall have power, if he thinks fit, to remit such fine either wholly or partially." If any injustice is done I am sure his Excellency will hear of it.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER—I think the hon. member mistakes the position entirely. The Postmaster-General would not in one instance in a hundred know anything about the case in respect of which a man was reported. The report would be made by the chief clerk or the clerk in charge of the department in which the offence was committed. I would again point out that the Captain Superintendent of Police and the Gaol Superintendent have the same powers.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Have those powers worked satisfactorily in the gaol?

His EXCELLENCY—Has there been constant neglect of duty in the Post Office?

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER—Constant petty neglect—not sufficient to warrant a man being dismissed. It is a great nuisance getting a new man. A small fine, judiciously applied, will, I think, have a good effect.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—There is no power to impose a fine exceeding \$10.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I do not think as a principle it is advisable to extend this system throughout the Colonial service; it is rather unconstitutional.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER—The system is in force at home—certainly in money order offices.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—This Bill applies to the Superintendent in the money order office and the Superintendent in the registration office?

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER—If they misbehave themselves they will be fined.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I move that the Bill be read this day six months.

Hon. WEI A YUK seconded.

The amendment was put, but only the proposer and seconder voted for it.

Council resumed and the Bill was read the third time.

COMPENSATION TO PAWNBROKERS BILL.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to provide for compensation

being paid to pawnbrokers in certain cases. The object of this Bill is to assimilate our local law to that in force in England by empowering the Court, if it thinks fit, to award some compensation to a pawnbroker, in cases where property, which has been wrongfully obtained or illegally pawned, is restored to the true owner. As our law at present stands, the Court possesses no such power, and it seems desirable to remedy the defect.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—I beg to second. I think in justice to pawnbrokers the Bill ought to become law. I have known of cases where pawnbrokers have suffered very severely owing to the statute law not containing means whereby they can be awarded compensation in particular instances.

Bill read the second time.

Council went into Committee.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I should like to say a word or two. Clause 2 of section 2 says that "any goods and chattels brought before the Court have been unlawfully pawned with a pawnbroker." It may be an impossibility to bring some goods and chattels before the Court. I think it is as well to say "any goods and chattels referred to or in question." There may be goods of such a size as to prevent them from being brought into Court.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER—Those goods could not be taken into a pawnshop. (Laughter). Goods taken into a pawnshop can be taken into Court.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—This Bill is borrowed from the home Act on the subject.

The objection was not pressed further.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—At the foot of the Bill it says "according to the conduct of the owner and the other circumstances of the case." I think the conduct of the pawnbroker should be taken into consideration. It is scarcely the conduct of the owner of the goods that is in question, but the conduct of the pawnbroker.

Hon. Ho KAI suggested the addition of the words "and the pawnbroker" after the word "owner."

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL agreed and the alteration was made.

Council resumed and the Bill was read the third time.

THE PROBATES ORDINANCE.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to move the second reading of the Bill entitled An Ordinance to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Probates and Letters of Administration in this colony. This Bill, sir, has attached to it a memorandum which explains very fully the objects of the Bill, and that memorandum has been in the hand of the members of the Council for some days and I do not think I can usefully add anything to what is contained in that memorandum. I may mention, sir, that his Honour the Chief Justice was good enough to assist me in the compilation of this Bill, and therefore we have the benefit of his knowledge and experience in these matters.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Bill read the second time and referred to the Law committee.

ADJOURNMENT.

His EXCELLENCY then adjourned the Council until next Monday.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was then held. Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart (Colonial Secretary) presided and all the members were present.

VOLUNTEER EXPENSES.

The CHAIRMAN brought up a minute in which the Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$1,450 in aid of the vote "Expenses of the Volunteers." He explained that the money was in excess of the estimates and the increase was due chiefly to the establishment of a camp at Stonecutters Island and the extra expenses involved in connection with it.

Vote recommended.

The Appropriation Bill.

The CHAIRMAN—The next business is the consideration of the supplies for 1897 and I propose, with the concurrence of the Committee, to follow the practice adopted in previous years and to take each item of the Bill as it occurs

and to afford any information which may be required as we go along.

PENSIONS.

On the item "Pensions, \$129,000" being read.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD said there seemed to be no limit to the number of pensions.

The CHAIRMAN—The pension rule, with which I have no doubt the hon. member is acquainted, is that no person is entitled to a pension unless he has fulfilled the conditions of the contract he entered into with the Government. Most of us will have to stay out here thirty years before our contract is fulfilled.

THE POST OFFICE.

In regard to the item "Post Office, \$207,361,"

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD said—Will the Government give the Finance Committee a statement showing the net result of the working of the Post Office during the past three years; that is, the total revenue received and the total expenditure of each year. I tried to fish this information out of the draft estimates, but with all my knowledge of figures and accounts generally I was not able to get it from these estimates; otherwise I would not have asked the question.

The CHAIRMAN—There will be no difficulty in furnishing you with the information you require.

Hon. C. P. CHATER agreed that it was impossible to get this information from the estimates. Payments were made two or three years after time and therefore they could not find out the exact position year by year.

LIGHTHOUSES.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD, on the item "Lighthouses, \$16,870," being read, asked—Will the Government give us a statement showing the annual cost for the last three years of the Gap Rock and other lighthouses and the amount of the Gap Rock light dues?

The CHAIRMAN—I think it would have been more convenient if that question had been asked in Council.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—There are items included in certain ways which one outside the Government cannot possibly ascertain. I have tried to find out what the figures are from the estimates and it is impossible to find them.

The HARBOUR MASTER—I think the information has been afforded the Council from time to time. It is rather a difficult matter to get it, and I question whether a good purpose will be served in the end.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS mentioned that to answer some of the hon. member's questions meant running through hundreds of vouchers for the sake of \$2 or \$3.

The HARBOUR MASTER—The time will come when each department will want an extra clerk to answer all the hon. member's questions.

The CHAIRMAN—If the figures can be got at approximately I am sure they will be satisfactory to the hon. member.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I think the remarks about the extra clerks are totally uncalled for. I think it is rather a good thing than otherwise for them to have a little extra work to do in order that they may find employment. (Laughter.) I do not refer to the Director of Public Works.

The HARBOUR MASTER—I do not know what the hon. member knows about the Director of Public Works' business or anybody else's business.

The item was recommended, the COLONIAL SECRETARY saying that the information would be obtained as accurately as possible.

THE CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS BARRACKS SERVICES.

Hon. C. P. CHATER asked for particulars respecting the item "Contribution towards Barrack Services, \$49,000."

H. E. Major-General BLACK said that half of the Hongkong Regiment was housed in Whitfield Barracks and arrangements were being made for the whole of the regiment to be housed in similar barrack rooms.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—\$49,000 is one third of the total expenditure?

H. E. Major-General BLACK—That is so.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—At the last meeting of Council I asked that the Finance Committee should be informed how it arises that, with a less total revenue for 1897, viz., \$2,438,000, as against the revised estimated revenue for

1896, viz., \$2,495,000, the military contribution payable for 1897 will be \$30,000 more than may be paid in 1896. It is true that \$9,000 more is required to be contributed for barrack services, but I should like to receive an explanation as to the increase of \$21,000 in the contribution towards military purposes seeing that the 1897 revenue is estimated at \$56,000 less than for 1896.

The CHAIRMAN—I have not omitted to inquire for the information asked for and the Treasurer will furnish the information.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER—The hon. member has failed to observe that land sales have to be deducted from revenue before the contribution can be calculated. The revised estimate for 1896 this year is only \$2,297,604, but the military contribution put down for this year was based on the estimate of revenue made last year. That revenue is, exclusive of land sales, \$2,218,366, and the estimated revenue for next year is \$2,338,823.

The CHAIRMAN—I trust the information is satisfactory.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I should like to know how it is that land sales are estimated at only \$100,000 for 1897, seeing that in the Governor's address the revenue for 1896 was stated to be \$250,000.

The CHAIRMAN—Land sales are very uncertain and in framing the estimates it is necessary to take them into careful consideration. No military contribution is chargeable on land sales and therefore it does not affect the military contribution whatever is estimated for land sales. There seems to be a misapprehension on that point.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS—As we understand it, \$147,000 is the total sum to be spent for barrack services in 1897. May I ask if the hon. member on my right (the Director of Public Works) is consulted when these plans are made and the contracts entered into? We know the hon. member has more experience about building operations here than anyone in the military service.

The CHAIRMAN—That is quite true. I am quite certain he has a much larger experience, but his time is limited and he is fully occupied with Government work. He would not be able to find time to do the military work. When the new military road was proposed the Director of Public Works was asked if he would undertake the work, but he could not do so and an answer to that effect had to be sent to the military authorities. It must also be remembered that a final statement of the barracks already erected has never been drawn up, but when it is I am afraid it will be found that this colony is not on the right side. I can assure the Committee that accounts will be rendered and each member will have an opportunity of seeing them.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS—I contend that with the experience of the Director of Public Works we can get these contracts done at a cheaper rate.

The CHAIRMAN—It is something unusual for unofficial members to praise the cheapness of Government work.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS—I do not praise the cheapness; I want the work done in a fair and reasonable manner.

The CHAIRMAN—I do not think that is a good reflection to cast upon the military. I do not think it is fair to reflect that they do not get things done at the very best price.

H. E. Major-General BLACK—I gather that you think the military may not care whether the work is properly or improperly done. You must remember that the military have to look after the two-thirds from the Imperial Government and they have to be very careful in seeing that the money is well spent, and in doing that they must see that your one-third is also well spent. You cannot dissociate the two.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS—The military authorities change; they are here for only a few years and consequently they are not in the run of the work. If the expenditure were left to the Public Works Department they would work much more economically.

The CHAIRMAN—The Government staff would have to increase.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS—That is a question for the Government to decide.

H. E. Major-General BLACK—I understood my hon. friend to say that plans were

never submitted to the Director of Public Works. When the head of our building department is in a difficulty he sometimes consults the Director of Public Works, who gives him advice. And I must say something in favour of our head man. He is a man of considerable experience in all parts of the world and he knows pretty well about buildings in any place and he looks thoroughly into the question of cost. He correctly designs his buildings, reckons up the average price, and if he does not know how much, why he can enquire from Mr. Bellios. (Laughter.)

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS—I am sure they do their best, but what I maintain is that they cannot work so economically as the staff of the Public Works Department.

The CHAIRMAN—The Director of Public Works must be gratified to hear an unofficial member saying that the Department is an economical one. We do not often hear such praise.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I am opposed to this item. At the last meeting of the Council the hon. Colonial Secretary informed the Council that certain members of the community to whom he had spoken had expressed the view that the community were desirous of paying 17½ per cent. as military contribution. I think we ought to know who said so. I have not heard any such views expressed either in public or in secret. I think it would be well for members to bear in mind that the Government in 1894 consulted certain members of the community and obtained their views in connection with the proposed reconstruction of the Sanitary Board, which views were not allowed to see the light of day until spring of this year. The views then expressed, with the single exception of those contained in the very able memorandum of the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai of 3rd November, 1894, in which I cordially concur, were not the views of the vast majority of the community, as was most emphatically demonstrated by the ballot which was held in the City Hall in May last.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER—This has nothing to do with the present question.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Their views were emphatically expressed—

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER—I rise to order.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—If a plebiscite of Hongkong was taken regarding the decision of the Imperial Government to appropriate seventeen and a half per cent. of Hongkong's Municipal revenue, the majority against such inequitable and unjust impost would not be ten or eleven to one, as was the case in the proposed reconstruction of the Sanitary Board, but it would be, I predict without fear of contradiction, not less than ninety-five to one. I must record my vote against this item.

The CHAIRMAN—We do not take votes at this Committee; it is simply a matter of recommendation. It must be very interesting to the Committee to hear the remarks of the hon. member, although they are in a similar strain to what we have already heard. What I said in Council the other day I repeat now. I said that the leading members of the community with whom I had consulted told me most emphatically that this colony can perfectly well afford to pay the military contribution which it is called upon to pay. I think the hon. member would have been told the same thing if he had consulted, whether secretly or openly, the leading members of the community. If he did consult them, all I can say is that those leading members hold one set of views when they speak to me and another set of views when they speak to him; but I do not think such is the case. I am inclined to think they are not the same gentlemen. However, that does not affect what I have stated, that the leading members of this community—

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—How many?

The CHAIRMAN—That the leading members of the community state that the colony is well able to afford the amount of the military contribution we are called upon to pay.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I say they do not represent the leading members of the community.

The item was then recommended.

THE MOUNT KELLET ROAD.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE objected to the item "Road from Victoria Gap to Mount Kellet Road, \$10,000," and in doing so said—It appears to me that there are other more important works which ought to have precedence over this item, and the work I especially have in view is the improvement of the quarters of the men serving under my command. I have already reported to the Government on this subject. The quarters are in many respects very bad and I consider it my duty to mention here in Council that I consider that the question of suitable quarters for the Police is of more importance than the provision of a new road in the hill district, which is already well supplied.

The CHAIRMAN—It is unnecessary for me to say that a very influentially signed petition was presented to the Government for the construction of this road. If I am not mistaken that petition had the signature of every member of this Council, and in deference to the views expressed in that petition the Governor has decided to have that road constructed. The petition stated that the road was very much desired and that it would be a public boon.

The item was recommended.

GARDENER'S COTTAGES.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE also objected to the item "Gardeners' Cottages, \$10,000" on the same grounds and he said—It is more important to house in a sanitary manner the European and Indian Police Force than to house a number of gardeners who are well acclimatised.

The CHAIRMAN—The hon. member has already conveyed his views to the Governor on the subject.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I understand that \$5,000 will have been expended on this item at the end of the month.

Hon. C. P. CHATER—We have not seen any plans, nor are we acquainted officially amongst ourselves of the fact of certain money being already expended on the building.

The CHAIRMAN—The matter was considered sometime ago. The contention was that the houses were absolutely necessary and His Excellency considered that the work should be carried on without delay. It was found that the Public Works Department had not any time to carry out the work and so the plans were drawn up by a private firm in this colony and were seen by the Director of Public Works, who considered the estimate fair and reasonable.

The item was recommended and the list was completed.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Committee then adjourned.

SUPREME COURT.

3rd December.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE.)

CHIU CHU-SHI V. CHEUNG KAM-TIN.

Plaintiff claimed \$550, money lent by her to the wife of the defendant, who is comrade to Messrs. Meyer and Co. Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. K. W. Mounsey), appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. J. Hastings defended.

The action was tried on the 26th November.

His Lordship, in delivering judgment, said—Owing to the importance and novelty of the point raised by Mr. Hastings for the defence I have considered it necessary to write my judgment and to go into the subject rather fully. A widow Chiu Chü-shi having lent \$550 to Cheung Chiu-shi, wife of Cheung Kam-tin, now seeks to recover this sum from such last named husband. Assuming it to be proved that the money was lent as alleged; that Cheung Chiu-shi was at the date of the loan living apart from Cheung Kam-tin by reason of the latter's misconduct; that Cheung Kam-tin has since separation made his wife a monthly allowance of \$40; that this allowance is inadequate and that Cheung Chiu-shi has spent the \$550 which she borrowed upon necessities, the defendant,

Cheung Kam-tin contends that at law his wife, under the circumstances, went into the world armed with absolute authority to pledge her husband's credit for necessities and necessities only; that at law she was not her husband's agent to make him liable for money advanced to her for the purpose of procuring necessities and actually applied to such a purpose; that only in equity could the husband be made accountable to his wife's creditor for money lent to the wife and expended on necessities; that the summary jurisdiction in equity of the Supreme Court of this Colony is limited by ordinance to certain matters and that amongst such matters is not included the alleged equitable liability of a husband to his deserted wife's creditor for money supplied to her and expended in necessities, and that consequently the Supreme Court in the exercise of its summary jurisdiction could not entertain the present claim. The cases relied on by the defendant were *Deane v. Soutten*, L.R. 9 Eq. 151; *James v. Morris*, L. Drew and Sm. 220; *Knox v. Bushell*, 3 C.B. n.s. 334. For the plaintiff it was replied that the present suit was not one regarding a married woman, but an action in debt at common law; that the wife was under the circumstances the husband's agent, and that the scope of such agency made the husband liable as much for money advanced to the wife and laid out by her in necessities as for the price of necessities supplied on credit; that there existed no decision by a Court of Common Law that refused to deal with an advance expended on necessities as if it were a claim for the price of necessities supplied; that because such claims as the present have for convenience been brought in equity, that is no reason—in the absence of a contrary judgment at law on the point—why such claims could not be entertained by a Court of Law; and that even if the present claim was one cognisable only in equity, the Supreme Court of this Colony, in the exercise of its summary jurisdiction in equity, had power to entertain the claim which constituted a charge within the meaning of subsection 3 of section 19 of Ordinance XIV. of 1873. Now, the condition of marriage does not of itself constitute the wife the agent of the husband: the agency when it arises is either express or implied: the agency implied by the law occurs in respect of necessities and of necessities alone, whether the parties are cohabiting or are living apart by the fault of the husband. But there is this difference between the states of cohabitation and separation due to the husband's misconduct, that, whereas in the former state the implied authority of the wife may be rebutted, in the latter state the implied authority of the wife is irrebuttable and the husband is absolutely bound by his deserted wife's contracts for necessities. In the case of husband and wife living together the presumption is that the husband is liable for necessities: this is a *presumptio juris*; but where the parties are living apart and separate from each other there is no such presumption, and it lies upon the creditor seeking to charge the husband to prove that the wife, from the circumstances of the separation or the conduct of the husband, has an implied authority to bind her husband by her contracts for necessities; if, however, the creditor shows that the separation is by the husband's fault, the wife, unless she has an adequate allowance for maintenance paid her, goes forth to the world with full authority to bind her husband for necessities, an authority of which the husband cannot deprive his wife; this is a *presumptio juris et de jure*. Authority being implied by the law only in the matter of necessities, it follows that to render the husband under any conditions liable for the engagements entered into by his wife in respect of other matters, the wife must be constituted his agent either impliedly by conduct or expressly, whether originally or by ratification. The function of an agent is to create privity of contract between two other persons. If therefore a wife deserted by her husband exceeds her irrebuttable implied authority to pledge his credit for necessities, by borrowing money or by purchasing on credit other than necessary articles, she *prima facie* cannot bind her husband by such engagements unless she is expressly or impliedly by conduct constituted his agent to make these contracts. Does then the law treat advances made to the wife and expended in necessities as equivalent to neces-

saries? Is it necessary that the wife, in order to procure necessities, should obtain advances of money? In other words, is it a necessary for a wife to borrow money to pay cash for necessities which she may procure upon the credit of her husband? The only condition under which I can conceive an affirmative answer to be possible is when tradesmen have refused to supply the wife except on cash terms; but this condition does not exist in the present case. Moreover, where money has been lent the contract arises upon the lending and is not dependent for its character upon the uses to which the loan has been applied, and I cannot see how this principle can be altered when the contract arises upon a loan to a deserted wife who expended the money lent upon necessities. The engagement by the wife in the present instance being in the nature of a money debt, for which (not being of the nature of a contract for the supply of necessities) the husband is not liable at law unless he expressly or impliedly by conduct constitutes his wife his agent to borrow money on his behalf, the present defendant appears to me on principle to be not liable at law to the plaintiff in this case. But apart from principle, what have the reported cases and text books to say upon the subject? In the case of *Earle v. Peale*, 1 Salkeld 386, there is a dictum of Parker C. J. who says, "A feme covert may buy necessities and her act shall make the husband chargeable; but she cannot borrow money to lay out for necessities." In the case of *Knox v. Bushell*, 3 C.B. n.s. 334, Crowder J. in the course of the argument asked "Have you any authority that money lent to the wife, though for a specific purpose, may be recovered in an action against the husband?" and the reply of counsel was "There is no case expressly in point at law, but there is a case in equity which comes very near this—*Harris v. Lee*, 1 P. Wms. 482," in which *per curiam* it was said, "Admitting the wife cannot at law borrow money, though for necessities, so as to bind the husband, yet this money being applied to the use of the wife for her use and for necessities, the plaintiff that lent this money must in equity stand in the place of the persons who found and provided such necessities for the wife; and therefore as such persons would be creditors of the husband, so the plaintiff shall stand in their place and be a creditor also." Upon which Crowder J. remarked, "That seems rather at variance with the rule at law." Now this case of *Knox v. Bushell* was an action at law for money lent to a wife who applied the same in procuring necessities for which the husband would have been liable, and it was held that the husband was not liable for the money lent. I am alive to the fact that in *Knox v. Bushell* the husband and wife were not living apart in the manner in which the present defendant and his wife have been, but that does not make the case the less an authority to be followed in the present case, for in my opinion, whether in the case of cohabitation or in the case of separation by the husband's fault, the authority of the wife to bind her husband for necessities only is the same in kind but different merely in degree; in both cases the authority is one implied by the law, being rebuttable in the one instance and irrebuttable in the other instance. The next case, that of *Jenner v. Morris*, 30 L. J. Ch. 361, was a suit instituted by the plaintiff for the purpose of enforcing a judgment entered against the defendant, who set up a defence of a set-off in respect of money supplied by him for the support of the plaintiff's deserted wife. Campbell L.C. said, "Desertion and the advance of money to her actually applied in payment of necessities furnished to her being established, the question arises whether the defendant, who advanced this money, can in equity claim a set-off in respect of it against a legal debt due from him to the plaintiff and sought to be enforced in equity. An action at law could not be maintained for such a claim. Those who supply the necessities to the deserted wife may sue the husband at law, she being considered his agent with uncountermandable authority to order the necessities on his credit. But Courts of law will not recognise any privity between the husband and any person who has supplied his wife with money to purchase necessities, or pays the tradespeople who have furnished them. Nevertheless it has been laid down from ancient

times that a court of equity will allow the party who has advanced the money which is proved to have been actually employed in paying for necessities furnished to the deserted wife to stand in the shoes of the tradespeople who furnished the necessities, and to have a remedy for the amount against the husband;" and again "that no action at law could be maintained for such a demand was considered too clear for argument in the recent case of *Knox v. Bushell*." Here, then, in a case of which the facts are on all fours with the facts in the present case, we have a Lord Chancellor not only categorically asserting that no action at law could be maintained against a husband for money lent to his deserted wife and by her expended upon necessities, but also stating the reason why such an action would not lie and explaining why equity will enforce such a claim. Another case pointing to the same conclusions is that of *Deare v. Soutten*, L. R. 9 Eq. 151, into which I will not, however, enter. Turning now to the text books. In *Leake's Digest of the Law of Contracts* (1878), p. 575, I read as follows:—"The husband is not liable at law for money lent to his wife, although borrowed and applied by her for the purpose of procuring necessities for which she might have pledged his credit. But in equity, if a person lend money to a wife to procure necessities under circumstances in which she is entitled to pledge her husband's credit, and she expends it in necessities, or if a person pay money in discharge of debts for such necessities for which the husband is liable, the husband or his estate may be charged with the sums so lent or paid." In the treatises of Chitty and Addison on Contracts, there is a similar exposition of the law; whilst in the notes to *Manby v. Scott* in Smith's Leading Cases 9th Edn. Vol. II. p. 539, the learned authors remark—"It must be observed that even in those cases in which the husband would be liable for necessities supplied to the wife, he is not liable in law for money lent to the wife and afterwards applied by her in procuring necessities. *Knox v. Bushell*, 3 C.B. n.s. 334. Secus, in equity, *Deare v. Soutten*, L.R. 9 Eq. 151. It would seem, however, that the rule of equity would now prevail since the Judicature Act, 1873, came into force, by reason of section 25 subsection 11." Having now established that the present claim is one which can be entertained only in a court of equity, it remains to examine and decide whether the Supreme Court of this colony, in the exercise of its summary jurisdiction, has jurisdiction in equity in the present matter. For the defendant it was argued that the summary jurisdiction in equity of the Supreme Court of this colony is strictly limited to the matters set forth in section 19 of Ordinance XIV. of 1873; but the plaintiff's contention was that if this was so, nevertheless the present matter is one which is covered by subsection 3 of the said section. It may be helpful to state the history of the summary jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. By Ordinance XV. of 1844, the Court of the Chief Superintendent was abolished and a Supreme Court was established to be holden before a Chief Justice with a legal and equitable jurisdiction coextensive with that exercised by the Courts of Common Law and of Chancery of England. By Ordinance IX. of 1845, this Supreme Court was for the first time invested with a summary jurisdiction in matters involving debts and damages of a small and trifling amount. Seventeen years later, in order to relieve the Chief Justice of some of his duties, etc., and to relieve the Police Court of all proceedings of a civil nature, Ordinance VII. of 1862 was passed establishing a Court of Summary Jurisdiction and authorising the appointment of a Judge thereof. But the jurisdiction of this Summary Court was the same as the summary jurisdiction conferred on the Supreme Court by Ordinance IX. of 1845 and was a jurisdiction at law only. There were then from 1862 to 1873 two Courts existing in the colony, viz., the Supreme Court and the Court of Summary Jurisdiction. But in 1873 the constitution of the Supreme Court was amended by the appointment of a Puisne Judge in addition to the Chief Justice of the said Court; the Court of Summary Jurisdiction was abolished; a Summary Jurisdiction at Law and in Equity was conferred on the Supreme Court, and the Puisne Judge was, as a general

rule, to preside at the hearing of all suits in the summary jurisdiction. It is apparently only in 1873 that there was any local summary jurisdiction in Equity. By section 10 of Ordinance XII. of 1873 (the reconstitution Ordinance) the Supreme Court (which includes the Puisne Judge acting separately in Court) shall be a Court of Equity with such and the like jurisdiction as the Court of Chancery in England. Is this wide jurisdiction in equity exerciseable by the Supreme Court in its summary jurisdiction? Is this extensive jurisdiction limited by any enactment? If it was intended that the summary jurisdiction of the Supreme Court should be coextensive with that wielded by the Court of Chancery in England, one would not expect to find any restrictive enactment on the subject in the Summary Jurisdiction Ordinance. But what do we find? Section 4 of Ordinance XIV. of 1873 says, "From and after the commencement of this Ordinance it shall be lawful for the Supreme Court to exercise a summary jurisdiction at Law and in Equity in the suits or matters hereinafter mentioned," and section 19 says, "it shall be lawful for the Supreme Court to exercise a Summary Jurisdiction in Equity in the suits or matters hereinafter mentioned; that is to say," and enumerates certain suits or matters. Now this section 19 is taken from the English County Courts Equitable Jurisdiction Act of 1865. This Act is entitled "An Act to confer on the County Courts a limited jurisdiction in Equity;" and it is clear that the intention of the local legislature was to follow the precedent of this statute, for the marginal note to section 19 of Ordinance XIV. of 1873 refers to this very Act. As regards the extent of the equitable jurisdiction thus conferred on the County Courts and by inference in the Supreme Court of this colony in its Summary Jurisdiction Mr. Pitt-Lewis in his *County Court Practice*, 2nd ed. vol. I., p. 205, remarks, "It will be found, however, that the whole of the enactments conferring on the County Courts jurisdiction of an equitable nature are much more guarded in their enactments" i.e. than those conferring a Common Law jurisdiction. "There is," he continues, "no general enactment conferring a general jurisdiction to try matters of an equitable nature. But each enactment cautiously confers a jurisdiction over certain named cases and over these named cases only. When therefore a matter is one which, under the old system before the Judicature Act, was within the jurisdiction of the Court of Chancery only, the County Court has no jurisdiction to entertain it, unless that jurisdiction is in terms bestowed, in respect of that particular class of action, by some express enactment." Upon the conclusion that the equitable jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in its summary jurisdiction is carefully restricted in its scope, follows the remaining question—Does the word *charge* in subsection 3 of section 19 of Ordinance XIV. of 1873 include the equitable liability of a husband for money lent to his deserted wife and expended in necessities? A charge may be defined as an agreement, declaration, or direction, whereby real or personal estate is expressly or constructively made liable, otherwise than by way of mortgage, to the discharge of some pecuniary burden—as a debt or legacy, or the portion of a widow or child: it is a security created by express provision. In the present case, there has been no declaration or direction by the defendant creating any charge. Has there been any agreement? No; because the only agreement extant is that between the plaintiff and defendant's wife; and that agreement does not *per se* bind the defendant, for whom his wife was not acting as an agent expressly or impliedly. Moreover it is probable that if the husband's liability in equity could have been referred to such an origin the point would long ago have been taken in a Court of Equity; but I can find no case in which this has occurred. For these reasons I am of opinion that the defendant has made good his contention that the present claim is not entertainable by the Supreme Court in its summary jurisdiction. The plaintiff will accordingly be non-suited with costs.

Mr. Francis—I ask your Lordship, under section 36 of the Summary Court Ordinance, to transfer the suit to the Original Jurisdiction

of the Supreme Court. The section says: "In case the Court shall be of opinion that a suit commenced in its summary jurisdiction ought to be heard in its original jurisdiction, the Court may order that the entry of such suit in the register of summary suits be cancelled therein and transferred therefrom to the principal register, notwithstanding that such suit may be within the provisions of this Ordinance." Section 38 provides that it shall not be necessary to issue a new writ, but simply to make the transfer. There is no doubt that the suit is maintainable in the Original Jurisdiction, and therefore I ask your Lordship to exercise the jurisdiction you undoubtedly possess.

Mr. Hastings—I submit, my Lord, that this section does not apply. The section says "in case the Court shall be of opinion that the suit commenced in its summary jurisdiction ought to be heard in its original jurisdiction." According to the judgment which your Lordship has given in this suit you have no jurisdiction to entertain the suit at all. The proceedings are bad from the commencement and your Lordship has no power to make any order in this suit at all. You are without jurisdiction. The section quoted by my learned friend apparently applies to a case which may be heard in the summary jurisdiction or in the original jurisdiction, but which from its importance or for other reasons the judge considers ought to be heard in the original jurisdiction. It cannot, I submit, refer to a case instituted improperly in the summary jurisdiction and which the judge sitting in the summary jurisdiction has no jurisdiction to deal with at all. I submit your Lordship has no power to make any order, especially as you have already given judgment non-suited the plaintiff in the case. If the plaintiff has any claim at all in this suit, he must bring it in the proper way in the original jurisdiction. In any case, I ask your Lordship to order that the application be made in the proper way by giving notice, so that we can have an opportunity of considering the matter.

His Lordship—Looking at this matter on the brief notice I have had it appears to me that section 36 means in case the Court shall be of opinion that a suit properly commenced, &c. I put in the word "properly," and at present, Mr. Francis, I am against you on the point. If you wish to make an application in Chambers and argue the point I shall be glad to hear you, but as at present advised I do not think I have power.

Mr. Francis—I will not trouble your Lordship further.

5th December.

IN ADMIRALTY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (ACTING
PUISNE JUDGE) WITH HON. COMMANDER
W. C. H. HASTINGS, R.N. (ASSESSOR.)

FRUEN v. HELLBURG.

H. Fruen, a pilot, of Swatow, brought an action to recover \$1,000 from Captain J. F. Hellburg, of the steamship *Victoria*, for damages caused by a collision between the *Victoria* and the plaintiff's pilot boat.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. Wilkinson), appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. E. Robinson (instructed by Mr. J. Hastings), appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Francis said this was an action in which the plaintiff, Captain Fruen, claimed the sum of \$1,000 against the defendant for damage done to his boat in consequence of a collision in which the steamer *Victoria*, then going into the port of Swatow, ran down and sank his pilot boat. The collision occurred on the 18th April last, about nine o'clock in the morning. Captain Fruen was a pilot doing business in Swatow. The *Victoria*, the defendant's steamer, was one of the vessels trading on the coast, and she had been in Swatow on a previous voyage in the month of March, and the defendant, the captain of the *Victoria*, had arranged that the plaintiff on his return voyage to the port should be on the look-out for him and should expect him to be in or about the port

on the 18th April last. On that morning Captain Fruen went afloat on the look-out for the *Victoria* in an open boat fitted with sail and having four of a Chinese crew on board, the boat being propelled both by oars and sail. Some short distance out of the port of Swatow, when between the Bill and Squat Rocks, which are on the west side of the entrance to the port, the *Victoria* was seen coming from the northward. As soon as the *Victoria* was about a couple of miles off, Captain Fruen lowered the sail of his boat, and laid to, to wait for the steamer coming up. The *Victoria* approached him apparently at full speed, making no effort to slacken her speed, and when coming towards him seemed to be with a slightly ported helm, he being at that time a little on her starboard bow as she came up. His crew were at the oars and were backing the boat just to keep her steady in her place. An ebb tide was running at the time about one and a-half or two knots an hour. It was a beautiful, fine clear morning, smooth sea, little or no wind. When the *Victoria* came within about a ship's length of the boat her helm seemed to be put hard over to port, and she ran into the pilot boat nearly amidships on the port side, cutting her in two, and throwing the whole of the people into the water. Prompt measures were taken by the people on board the *Victoria* to rescue the crew, and they were got out of the water and attended to on board the steamer. The boat was wrecked. There were no pleadings in the case, but preliminary acts had been filed. The defendant's preliminary act gave the time of the collision as 8.20 a.m., off Bill Island. There was a light N.N.W. breeze. There was a difference between the parties as to the direction of the wind, but both agreed that it was quite light. The defendant stated that shortly after the boat was seen, the helm of the *Victoria* was starboarded in order to pass under the stern of the boat until they brought her about one and a-half to two points on the starboard bow of the *Victoria*. When the *Victoria* bore away the pilot ran across the bows of the *Victoria* and got on her port side. The *Victoria* at once blew a blast on her whistle, and the engines were stopped, and she put astern, and the helm was put hard to starboard. Plaintiff was in fault for not showing his pilot's flag, showing a pilot was on board, and for having altered his course and not kept a good look-out. As a matter of fact, said counsel, there was no pilot flag at the mast when the collision occurred, but it had been flying on the mast, and it came down when the mast was taken down. It might be that his Lordship would have to deal with the boat as if she was an ordinary rowing boat. The question, however, was, Was the steamer justified under the circumstances in running the boat down?

The plaintiff was then called. He said that before the collision the *Victoria* did not slacken her speed. When he went on board the defendant remarked that it was a bad loss and asked witness what the amount of the loss was. Witness piloted the *Victoria* into harbour and the defendant said he did not see the boat, but he afterwards said he took the boat for a fishing boat.

In cross-examination witness said the local regulations at Swatow required a pilot boat to carry a pilot flag but not carry a number or any marks on the mainsail. If the defendant made an arrangement with the other pilot, O'Sullivan, to pilot the *Victoria* into Swatow harbour, the arrangement was unknown to witness. After lowering the sail, witness had no time to put up the pilot flag again. He did not tell the Swedish Consul that he would not claim damages.

The case was adjourned until Monday when judgment was given for the plaintiff with costs.

The Norwegian steamer *Hermann Vede Jarlsburg*, Capt. Reimers, unexpectedly put into Yokohama on 22nd November, having been six weeks out from San Francisco. The captain reported that the crank shaft had got out of order. After coaling and making the necessary repairs he will proceed to Calcutta, his original destination. He is carrying a cargo of wheat.

THE GAP ROCK LIGHT DUES.

The Hon. T. H. Whitehead sends for publication, for the information of the Chamber of Commerce and those interested, the following correspondence:—

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL
MEMBER OF COUNCIL.

Government House,

Hongkong, 12th November, 1896.

Sir,—I have the honour to forward for the consideration of yourself and your colleagues, the unofficial members of the Legislative Council, the enclosed copy of a letter from the Chamber of Commerce suggesting that the Gap Rock Lighthouse rate, which was first imposed in 1890, should be now abolished in accordance with my predecessor's promise, which, however, he stated could not be binding on his successor.

The rate if continued is estimated to yield during the coming year about \$65,000, and if this amount is withdrawn from the estimate of revenue for 1897 the latter will be exceeded by the estimated expenditure. It is therefore necessary either that the rate should continue to be levied, or that the loss which would be entailed by its abolition should be made good from some other source of revenue.

I shall therefore be greatly obliged if you will be so good as to confer with your colleagues on the matter, and acquaint me with your and their views as to whether it is preferable to continue to levy light dues generally as at present (including the Gap Rock rate), or to devise some alternative source of revenue in order to make good the deficiency which the abolition of light dues would entail.

In the event of your recommending that light dues should be abolished, I shall be glad to be favoured with your valuable advice as to the method by which you consider the deficit caused by such abolition may be met.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) WILLIAM ROBINSON.

The Honourable the Senior Unofficial Member
of the Legislative Council, &c., &c., &c.

(Enclosure.)

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO THE
COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
31st July, 1896.

Sir,—This Chamber, naturally regardless of any question bearing on the prosperity of the port, is anxious to see that no impost levied for a special object should be suffered thereafter to become a permanent charge on the shipping frequenting it.

When in reply to a question put by the Hon. T. H. Whitehead in the Legislative Council on the 8th inst. the fact was elicited that the total sum received as the proceeds of the special Gap Rock Lighthouse rate from 1889 (date of levy) to the 30th June last was \$358,521, while the amount expended during the same period for construction of lighthouse, laying of cable, and maintenance was \$315,935, showing a balance of \$42,586 in hand, my Committee felt that the time had arrived to ask the Government to redeem the pledge made by Sir William Des Vœux to abolish the extra tax of one and a half cents per ton on shipping.

It may perhaps be useful to quote, for the information of his Excellency the Governor, the words used by his predecessor at the meeting of Council on the 11th December, 1889, when the Ordinance authorising this special addition to the light dues was passed. The following question asked by Mr. MacEwen, the then nominee of this Chamber, and the reply of Sir William Des Vœux are taken from the short-hand report:—

"Mr. MacEwen—The discussion generally takes place on the second reading of Bills, but in a matter of this kind it would be satisfactory to know the length of time it is intended to levy this increase, because, if I recollect correctly, it was understood that the tax would only be levied in order to pay for the actual cost of the Lighthouse and then be withdrawn. Is that the understanding?"

"His Excellency—Most distinctly. The cent will not raise \$30,000, and I think we will be very lucky if we get off for \$120,000. It will be called the Gap Rock Lighthouse rate, and

it will involve the special sanction of the Legislative Council, and it will naturally cease when the Gap Rock Lighthouse is paid off. As it is very inconvenient to levy for a broken period of the year, I think, unless there is strong reason to the contrary, it would be advisable to have a meeting again before the 1st January to pass this Bill. If you prefer a meeting at a later date I am quite willing to agree to that. However, as the Council has already practically agreed to this matter, there may be no objection to suspend the Standing Orders, and pass the Bill through all the stages to-day."

The Bill was passed there and then, and, in reply to a request by Mr. Ryrie that Mr. MacEwen's question and the reply thereto should be specially noted, Sir William Des Vœux further said:—

"His Excellency—Of course this will be recorded, and I think it will be just as well to mention in the minutes that Mr. MacEwen drew attention to the matter, and that I said that this extra rate was intended by me to be distinctly a payment for the Gap Rock Lighthouse and nothing else. Of course, when Mr. Ryrie talks of a promise, I must say it is absolutely impossible for me to bind my successor about anything. All I can say is that I have not the slightest intention to apply the rate for any other purpose. If a necessity arose for doing so, I should come to this Board and inform it of the fact."

From these extracts it will be clear to his Excellency the Governor that Sir William Des Vœux made an explicit pledge, so far as he was concerned, that when the purpose for which this special Gap Rock Lighthouse rate was levied had been achieved the impost would cease. This being the case beyond all cavil, my Committee confidently appeal to the Governor to carry out the expressed intentions of his predecessor in office, feeling sure that his Excellency's sense of justice will bind him to the fulfilment of the pledge given to the representative of this Chamber.

The tax of one cent per ton levied prior to 1889, and still imposed, on shipping yields more than sufficient to provide for the upkeep and maintenance of all the lights, and the Committee therefore has the less hesitation in praying for the abolition of the special Gap Rock Lighthouse rate.

Trusting that his Excellency will see his way to perform the pledge made by his predecessor without undue delay.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

To Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Colonial Secretary.

THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER TO THE GOVERNOR.

Hongkong, 27th November, 1896

Sir,—With reference to your Excellency's despatches Nos. 138 G. and 141 G., of the 12th and 19th inst. respectively, I have the honour to inform you that the draft estimates for 1897 were duly forwarded to the unofficial members of the Legislative Council for their perusal.

The question of the abolition of the Gap Rock Lighthouse rate was again discussed by them at a meeting held on the 25th inst., all being present, with the exception of Mr. Bell-Irving, who had left the colony.

We are unanimous in considering that it is expedient for your Excellency to redeem the pledge given by your predecessor to the effect that this special rate should cease as soon as the cost of the light had been defrayed.

As regards the covering of the deficit in the revenue resultant on its abolition, Messrs. Ho Kai, Bellios, Wei Yuk, and myself are of opinion that a fixed rate of 2½ cents per ton should in future be imposed as light dues on all shipping entering the harbour, and in this we are joined by Mr. Bell-Irving, who addressed a letter to me on the subject immediately before his departure.

Mr. Whitehead does not concur in this proposal and is addressing your Excellency directly on the subject.—I am, &c. &c.,

(Signed) C. P. CHATER.

His Excellency Sir Wm. Robinson, K.C.M.G., Governor, Hongkong.

HON. T. H. WHITEHEAD TO THE GOVERNOR.

Hongkong, 2nd December, 1896.

Sir,—I have the honour to address your Excellency with reference to your communication to the unofficial members of Council, made through the senior member, on the subject of the Gap Rock Light dues, under date the 12th November. Mr. Chater in his letter in reply, dated the 27th ulto., has informed you of my intention to do so, and of my dissent from the opinions expressed by him on behalf of his other colleagues in the Council on the subject in question. I dissent so strongly, both as to the procedure adopted by your Excellency in bringing the matter before the members of Council privately, and on the merits of the question, and I deem it of such importance to the public, that I propose to now publish the whole correspondence, and to refer the subject to the Secretary of State.

I take leave to call your Excellency's attention in the first place to the fact that although the letter of the Chamber of Commerce, calling the attention of the Government to the fact that the time had arrived for the abolition of the Gap Rock Light dues, was dated the 31st July last, it was not until the 12th ulto. that any step appears to have been taken with a view to the consideration of the question. I note in the second place that it was not until the 19th November that the Estimates for the year 1897 were circulated to members and that they contain no suggestion of any intention on the part of the Government to relieve the trade of the colony of the burden imposed on shipping for a special purpose long since accomplished, or any proposals for any alternative measure. I beg most respectfully to submit that the delay in the preparation and publication of the Estimates, and especially the delay in taking action on the Chamber of Commerce letter of the 31st July, is most injurious to the public interests, and prevents any proper and adequate consideration of the important questions involved, either by the responsible members of the Council or by the public who are directly interested. The Estimates will be laid upon the Council table to-morrow for the first time, and will then only become known to the community generally. I understand that they must be passed before the end of the month, and there is now no time left for their proper and effective consideration. I feel it my duty to formally protest against the holding back of the Estimates until the very last month in the year.

I beg further most respectfully to protest against the method recently adopted by the Government of privately consulting the unofficial members of Council on matters the consideration of which ought properly and must ultimately be brought before the Council at its public sittings, and of obtaining from them, in writing through the senior member, opinions on matters on which subsequently they are called on to vote in open Council. Such consultations must tend to render the meetings of Council farcical. There can be no real consideration or discussion, all being out and dried before hand. The public may have no opportunity of hearing the reasons put forward by the Government in support of their views, and the unofficial members must be deprived of the opportunity of learning the opinions on the subject of those they are supposed to represent, whatever it may be. The continuance of such methods must render the proceedings of the Council *pro forma*, and I submit they are unconstitutional.

I desire that the point and my complaint may be referred to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and that his special attention may be directed to this, that if such a course of procedure is permissible at any time—and I do not say that within limits it is not—this question of the Gap Rock Light dues is the very last that should be dealt with in that way. It is a question affecting the freedom of the port, affecting directly every merchant and trader, a question which ought to be as publicly and as thoroughly ventilated as possible, and to the consideration of which and of the possible consequences of the abolition or retention of the tax, the greatest length of time should be given. The Chamber of Commerce, directly representing the mercan-

tile and shipping interest, make strong representations on the subject, and their representations and opinions should not I think be overruled by a secret conclave of gentlemen one only of whom, Mr. Bell-Irving, directly represents the mercantile and shipping world, and who in fact was absent from the meeting of unofficial members at which the question was settled. The other unofficial members are large land owners or largely interested in land and property, and only indirectly interested in the trade and freedom of the port. This is not a question which should be left to the unofficial members to settle in private, and without a full statement in public of their reasons and a full consideration and discussion of all possible alternatives. There may be a discussion in open Council, and speeches may be made, but there will be no *bona fide* debate. There cannot be, when the conclusion has been prearranged.

As to the question of the abolition of the Gap Rock Light dues, I am distinctly of opinion that they ought to be abolished. They were imposed for a temporary purpose which has been effected, and, more, they have left a considerable credit balance in hand. There should be no tax of any kind on shipping, no matter how slight or for whatever purpose. Hongkong was established as a free port. It has attained its present position because it has been a free port. It can only maintain its position by remaining an entirely and an absolutely free port. The landowners, the merchants, the traders, the professional men, all who are making their livelihood in Hongkong, owe their prosperity to the presence of the shipping. A free port opened on the neighbouring coast would draw away a large portion of our shipping, and the establishment of such a port has been and is now in contemplation. The residents in Hongkong should be willing to pay a "bonus" if it were needful to encourage ships and steamers to this port. The Light dues may be a mere trifle in themselves, but in these days of keen competition and careful calculation of expenses they have to be taken into account. It is the principle of freedom I contend for. I cordially support the request of the Chamber of Commerce for the abolition of the Gap Rock Light dues, and I object to the impost of the same dues under another name. I am not satisfied that it is necessary to substitute some other source of revenue, but if additional taxation is an absolute necessity, there are it seems to me other available sources of income. House property more than any other interest derives its value from the shipping, the fees for spirit licences might be increased or doubled, and there are considerations arising out of the Opium Farm and opium, and suggestions might be made in connection therewith for raising any required addition to the revenue. Had the question been referred to the Finance Committee of Council within a reasonable period of the date on which the Chamber of Commerce brought it to the notice of Government there would have been adequate time for its examination and discussion, and the expenditure or economy in the cost of the administration could have been simultaneously considered, but now in the last days of the year the Estimates must be hurried through without delay.

I respectfully protest against this method of bringing forward important questions for debate at the latest possible moment. I further protest against secret confabulations between the unofficial members of Council on public questions, and at the reduction of the debates in Council to a mere *pro forma* discussion on resolutions already arrived at.

I may be permitted to point out that in the Straits Settlements, with their enormous area and extensive interests, the Government there laid the Estimates for 1897 on the Council table on the 1st of October last.

I have the honour to request that this my protest may be forwarded at your Excellency's earliest convenience to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.—I have the honour to be, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) T. H. WHITEHEAD.

His Excellency Sir Wm. Robinson, K.C.M.G., Governor, Hongkong.

THE TUNG WAH HOSPITAL.**THE GOVERNOR AND THE NEW DIRECTORS.**

On Thursday morning H.E. the Governor met the newly elected Directors of the Tung Wah Hospital in the Council Chamber. The Colonial Secretary and Hon. Dr. Ho Kai were also present.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY introduced the new Directors, who are as follows:—Messrs. Lo Tsz-tung (of Messrs. Arnhold, Karberg & Co.), Liu Tsz-shan (of the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Co.), Yung Chiu-po (of Mr. J. D. Hutchison's firm), Wong Shap-shan (of the Wo Ki Nam Pak Hong), Li Sui-shek (of the Kwong Mi Un (Californian Hong), Chan Hiu-tung (of the Him Un opium firm), Leung Lu-kai (of the Chi Tsung pawnbroker), Kwok In-Un (of Austrian Lloyd's Steam Navigation Co.), Wong Sing-tung (of the Fok Lun U Kau Pat Hong), Lau Tsz-fun (of the Shin Lun piece goods shop), Tai Yat-hing (of the Kin Fat Rice shop), Fan Pat-shan (of the Sun Hing cotton yarn firm).

His EXCELLENCY said—Gentlemen, I am very pleased to meet you to-day and I congratulate the members of the Tung Wah Hospital Corporation on the section of the Committee elected to administer the affairs of the hospital during the next year. I am especially glad to observe that the three members of the Committee who are entrusted with the management of its financial affairs and upon whom the chief share of the executive work falls are gentlemen who have been long connected with Hongkong and who possess a knowledge of English. I trust that this is a sign that the Corporation as represented by its Committee is prepared to take steps to improve the present condition of the hospital. That such improvement is necessary I am fully convinced. You are aware that some time ago I appointed a Commission to enquire into the hospital. That Commission has sent in its reports, which will be published. All the members of the Commission are unanimous in praising the good work done by the hospital in the past, but they all consider that in the interests of the sick and destitute who make use of the hospital and with a view to their comfort improvements should be effected. In the views of the members of the Commission I entirely concur and I now wish to inform you that it is my intention, without undue delay, to give you every assistance to place the hospital above criticism so far as its sanitary maintenance and the cleanliness of the patients who make use of it are concerned. To effect this desirable object I am about to appoint a steward whose sole time and attention are to be devoted to maintaining the hospital and its inmates in a sanitary and cleanly condition. You, gentlemen, are merchants whose time is much engrossed by your own affairs, and though you, out of the goodness of your hearts, are willing to sacrifice both time and money whilst managing the affairs of the hospital, it is not reasonable to expect that you can attend to all the minute though important details which are involved in the management of an institution such as the Tung Wah. I feel sure, therefore, that the appointment of a steward which I propose to make will be welcomed by you not only on account of the improvement in the cleanliness of the hospital and the patients which it will effect, but also because it will relieve you from being directly responsible for details which you cannot possibly find time to attend to. When this steward has been appointed I am confident that complaints as to unclean hospital clothing and bedding and unwashed and unshaved patients will cease. You must be as desirous as I am that the hospital should be maintained in a thoroughly sanitary condition and that due provision should be made for the cleanliness and comfort of the patients. I can therefore rely upon your doing everything to help the newly appointed steward to carry out his duties in such a manner as will bring credit to the institution, the reputation of which should be jealously guarded by you. Having touched on the sanitary maintenance of the hospital and the cleanliness of the patients I now come to a more delicate subject, viz. the treatment accorded to the patients who are admitted to the hospital. I am aware that hitherto all patients admitted to the hospital have been treated according to

methods in which the Chinese believe. Now I do not propose on the present occasion to criticise those methods, but I wish it to be clearly understood that it is not my intention to interfere with them. But while treatment according to Chinese views is not to be abolished, I consider that patients in the Tung Wah Hospital should be given an opportunity of exercising an option and should be allowed to see doctors versed in methods which are not Chinese and if they desire to be treated by such doctors every facility of being so treated should be afforded to them. Many of you, gentlemen, are no doubt believers in Chinese treatment, but there are also among you some who have availed themselves of treatment by European doctors. Why should patients in the Tung Wah Hospital not have an opportunity of doing the same thing? As a Governor of a British colony I think it is my duty to afford them the opportunity, which should not be confined to the rich only, but which should be also extended to the poor. I therefore intend to appoint a Chinese trained in Western medical science to reside at the Tung Wah and to treat any patients who may desire to be treated by him. You must understand that no compulsion of any kind is to be used. If the patient prefers Chinese treatment, no one is to prevent him from having it. But if on the other hand he desires to receive European treatment, a medical man will be resident in the hospital who can treat him. I feel sure I can rely upon your explaining the position to the Chinese community or kaifong for whom you are acting. I am quite aware that Chinese are very conservative and are not in favour of change. It is not improbable therefore that many will still continue to be treated by the Chinese doctors in the hospital, but it is not at the same time unlikely that some will ask to have the benefit of the advice and treatment of the doctor trained in Western medical science. In any case I shall feel that I have done my best to give all classes of the community an equal chance of being treated according to methods to which I, of course, regard as the best, and if they still prefer to adhere to their own doctors they cannot say they have not been afforded an opportunity of having what I am bound to regard as better treatment. I am very glad to learn from a report dated 23rd November from Dr. Atkinson that six patients who were in the Tung Wah Hospital were transferred, at their own request, to the Government Civil Hospital. This leads me to believe that if the benefits of Western treatment are explained to those who cannot be cured by Chinese treatment, and gradually are realised by practical experience, it will not be long before the prejudice which exists among many Chinese against Western medical methods will be minimised and, as time progresses, entirely removed. In the interests of suffering humanity such a consummation is greatly to be desired and it will be a source of gratification to me if any action on my part contributes towards such a desirable result. I am therefore anxious that the doctor who is to reside at the hospital should possess an acquaintance with the English tongue sufficient to enable him to explain fully to the patients in the Tung Wah Hospital what the Visiting Surgeon may wish to be told to them regarding their diseases and to act as interpreter to the Visiting Justices and others who visit the hospital. The Colonial Surgeon has hitherto acted as the Visiting Surgeon at the Tung Wah Hospital. But that officer has so many other duties to perform that he cannot give the time and attention required for such an important duty as that of visiting and inspecting the Tung Wah Hospital. I therefore hope to be able to appoint an officer whose sole duty will be to visit the Tung Wah Hospital and who will be at all times ready to give the Committee the benefit of his advice and assistance. I trust to be able to secure for this appointment the services of a medical gentleman who is well known to and highly respected by the Chinese community of this colony. Now, gentlemen, it has been hinted to me that there may be opposition to the appointments I propose to make. I am at a loss to understand where such opposition is likely to arise, but should it occur I rely upon you to give it

no countenance. If I discover any one trying to stir up trouble, and by misrepresentation creating bad feeling, I will take prompt steps to deal with such a person. Persons of this kind not only get themselves into trouble but give rise to suggestions which if carried out would be a burden to the Chinese. For example, it has been suggested that a poor rate should be charged on the Chinese resident here to support the destitute Chinese sick, who should be looked after by the Government. If matters are carried on properly and harmoniously at the Tung Wah no such rate need be contemplated, and I am certain you gentlemen will do all in your power to promote harmony and to advance the welfare of the hospital and of those who are admitted to it. I rely upon you, therefore, to co-operate cordially with me. We have exactly the same object in view—the kind and humane treatment of the diseased, and the healing and, if possible, curing of those who are sick unto death. I have had some copies of these remarks printed in Chinese, and they will be given to you for your information.

The deputation then withdrew.

THE TAIPIINGSHAN IMPROVEMENT WORKS.

The following report on the progress of the Taipingshan Improvement Works was laid before the Legislative Council on Thursday:—

Public Works Office,
Hongkong, 11th August, 1896.

Sir,—In accordance with the instructions of His Excellency the Governor contained in C.S.O. 1373/1896 dated the 12th June last, I have the honour to forward the following report upon the progress of the Taipingshan Improvement Works.

2.—As a good deal of misunderstanding appears to exist as to the improvement of the area resumed, I propose briefly to record the proceedings that have been adopted with respect to the resumption and subsequent improvement of this area.

RESUMPTION.

3.—Under the provisions of Ordinance 8 of 1894, the area now known as the "Resumed area of Taipingshan," the area of private property being 6.25 acres in extent, was resumed on the 26th day of September, 1894. Under the provision of section 7, no houses on the lands resumed could be altered, pulled down, or destroyed pending the publication of the list referred to in section 6, sub-section 3.

4.—On the 10th of November, 1894, shortly after my return from leave, ascertaining that the Government had taken no steps whatever for the valuation, on behalf of the ratepayers of the Colony, of the claims that would be made in respect of the properties resumed, I addressed a letter No. 886, C.S.O. 2889/1894, to the Government on the subject, and the work was entrusted to the Colonial Treasurer, the Deputy Land Officer, and myself.

5.—The preparation of the necessary plans and the collection of the information required naturally occupied a considerable time, and the Board which was appointed under the provisions of section 5 of Ordinance 8 of 1894 on the 10th November, 1894, did not hear any claims till the 27th December, 1894, and did not publish the list required under section 6 till 9th March, 1895, *Government Gazette*, page 165, and the enquiry was not completed and the awards published till the 18th May, *Government Gazette*, page 519.

6.—During the greater portion of this period, viz., from December to March, my own time and that of other officers of the Department was to a large extent occupied in attending to the ordinary routine work of the Department and the valuation of the several properties (118 lots and 417 houses) included in this area, and subsequent attendance at the arbitration. A special report upon this subject dated the 6th March, 1895, will be found in Sessional Paper 11 of 1895.

IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

7.—On the 25th March, 1895, I submitted a report, Sessional Paper 14 of 1895, and project for the Improvement of the Resumed Area. These were referred to the Public Works Committee on the 11th April, 1895, and again on the 23rd May, 1895, the members requiring

further time to consider the project. In the interval, I attended a private meeting of the Unofficial Members at the invitation of the Honourable C. P. Chater and further explained the report and project.

8.—On the 6th of June, 1895, the project was adopted by Council, and the approval of the Secretary of State was communicated by telegraph on the 11th June and confirmed by C.O.D. 187/1895, received on the 7th September.

9.—The first step to be taken was the clearing out of the woodwork and demolition of some of the buildings, in order to admit of the permanent works being commenced.

10.—Operations were commenced in June, and the removal of buildings in Taipingshan, Market, Upper Station, Square, and Bridges Streets, and Tank Lane, was effected during the months of August, September, and October.

11.—An attempt was made to obtain satisfactory offers for the building material in July, 1895, C.S.O. 1781/1895, but was unsuccessful. It was subsequently decided to sell the material by public auction, the first sale took place on the 25th July, 1895.

12.—Subsequently, various sales at public auction took place till the 3rd March last, when I received instructions to cancel the sale advertised to take place on the 6th of that month C.S.O. 447/1896.

13.—On the 8th of April I addressed the Government, pointing out that the delay in getting the area rid of dangerous buildings was seriously interfering with the progress of the permanent works and I received authority to pull down certain buildings, burn the woodwork, and stack the bricks and stone. His Excellency the Governor stating that he supposed the bricks could be used by the Public Works Department. C.S.O. 894/1896. Since this date the material has as far as possible been used in the building of retaining walls, &c., and arrangements are being made in Government contracts for the continuance of this course.

14.—On the 12th of March, at a meeting of the Sanitary Board, the following resolution was passed:—

"*Resumed Area*.—A letter—which had been circulated to Members—having reference to the removal of building materials from the area in Taipingshan recently resumed by the Government, was laid on the table and the minutes on the circulating cover read."

"A discussion ensued."

"The President moved—

"1.—That the Board is in possession of no evidence to warrant a belief that the material remaining in the resumed area of Taipingshan is infected with the Bubonic Plague bacillus. On the contrary, in the opinion of Board the statistics in its possession prove conclusively that the steps taken to eradicate the bacillus from infected premises in 1894 have been attended with most satisfactory results."

"2.—The Board, however, in view of the popular feeling on the subject, recommend that if further material is sold steps should be taken to burn as far as practicable all wood still remaining in the buildings."

"The Vice-President seconded."

"Question—put and agreed to."

"The Honourable the Acting Captain Superintendent of Police and Mr. Ede did not vote."

COMMENCEMENT OF PERMANENT WORKS.

15.—On the 20th September, 1895, a contract No. 35/1895, C.S.O. 2582/1895, was entered into with Mr. Kang On for the construction of a storm-water drain from Hollywood Road to Caine Lane.

16.—The existing storm-water drain running diagonally across nearly the whole of the resumed area prevented, owing to its level, other portions of the improvement works to any great extent being proceeded with, as the disturbance of this drain pending adequate provision for the discharge of the storm-water from the hillside above the area, which was conducted by it through this portion of the city, would, during the heavy rainfalls so frequently experienced here, have probably involved much damage to and loss of property.

17.—On the 9th of October, a contract No. 38/1895, C.S.O. 2776/1895, was entered into with Mr. Chan A Tong for the construction

of the lower portion of Pound Lane and Taipingshan Street. This work involved the erection of heavy retaining walls along the frontages of the above streets.

18.—The completion of these contracts has been delayed owing to some extent to the rainfall experienced in the month of February and the stopping of the further demolition of buildings and removal of the material, C.S.O. 894/1896. They are, however, now making satisfactory progress and will shortly be completed.

19.—A contract No. 18/1896 has been entered into, C.S.O. 1570/1896 and confidential C.S.O. 56/1896, for the construction of the permanent works involved in laying out of about one-half the area, viz., Blocks A., D., and E.; the time for the completion of this work under the contract expires in May next.

20.—A further contract No. 19/1896 has been advertised for the construction of the permanent works involved in laying out the area bounded by Market Street, Po Yan Street, Station Street, and Pound Lane, viz., Blocks F. and K., C.S.O. 1790/1896, and the time for the completion of this work will expire about December next.

21.—The necessary plans, specification, and details for the laying out of the remaining portion of the area are in hand, but owing to the number of buildings and the quantity of material that still exist on the site, some progress will have to be made with the works included in the foregoing contracts before work can be commenced.

22.—The sum of \$3,170 has been realised for the sale of certain building material.

23.—Inland Lots 361 and 1,356 have been restored to the original owners in lieu of the payment of compensation, C.S.O.'s 755/1895 and 1296/1895; and Inland Lot No. 1,356 has been sold for the sum of \$1,585.50, annual Crown rent \$32, C.S.O. 1939/1895 and C.O.D. 211/1895.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

FRANCIS A. COOPER.

Director of Public Works.

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

The fortnightly meeting of the Sanitary Board was held at the offices on Thursday, Hon. F. A. Cooper (Director of Public Works) presiding. There were also present—Hon. F. H. May (Captain Superintendent of Police), Dr. Ayres (Colonial Surgeon), Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. N. J. Ede, and Mr. H. McCallum (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

NEW BY-LAWS.

By-laws for the regulation of bakehouses, for providing for the sanitary maintenance of opium divans, and by-laws to be made under section 13 of Ordinance 15 of 1894 were considered and approved with a few slight amendments.

THE PLAGUE IN FORMOSA.

The Consul at Tamsui forwarded statistics of the cases of bubonic plague which have occurred in that district between the 7th and 14th November. The number of fresh cases was 84 and 36 deaths, including one case at Tamsui on the 9th and one at Kelung on the 11th.

CHOLERA AT SINGAPORE.

The Colonial Secretary at Singapore submitted a return showing that cholera was declining greatly at that port. Between the 10th and 17th November only four cases had occurred.

HEIGHT OF BUILDINGS.

An application was made by Messrs Leigh and Orange for permission to erect offices for Hon. C. P. Chater, on the Praya Central, of a greater height than 76 feet. The application was granted.

SURVEYOR'S QUARTERLY REPORT.

Mr. J. R. Crook, Sanitary Surveyor, in his third quarterly report for 1896, stated that during the quarter plans had been deposited for the redrainage of 509 houses. Plans for 914 houses were deposited during the first two quarters and 1,449 houses were carried forward from 1895, making a total, exclusive of minor

repairs, of 2,872 during the year. The redrainage of 503 houses had been completed during the quarter and the plan of one house cancelled, making a total of 1,750 houses completed or cancelled during the year, and leaving 1,122 to carry forward. Notices had been received during the quarter for repairs to the drainage arrangements of 140 houses and repairs had been completed in 26 instances, making a total for the year of 246 houses in hand for repairs, 92 of which have been completed. Certificates had been issued during the quarter for 59 houses as having been built in accordance with the provisions of section 74 of Ordinance 24 of 1887. This makes a total of 259 houses built in accordance with the Public Health Ordinance during the current year.

The PRESIDENT—I propose that the report be forwarded to the Colonial Secretary and that it be pointed out that this Board has received no definite reply to their request for an increase of staff in the Surveyor's department. An enormous amount of work devolves on the officer of this Board, whose services only partly dispose of it.

The COLONIAL SURGEON seconded.
Carried.

MORTALITY.

The mortality statistics showed a death rate of 22.2 per thousand per annum for the week ended 21st Nov., as against 35.7 for the corresponding week last year.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Board adjourned till Thursday, the 17th inst.

THE CHARGE AGAINST MCKINLEY.

STATEMENT BY THE ACCUSED.

At the Police Court on the 4th December, before Hon. Commander W. O. H. Hastings, Charles McKinley was brought up on remand charged with the forgery of a letter.

Mr. J. Hastings appeared for the prosecution and Mr. E. Robinson (instructed by Mr. Mounsey) defended.

His Worship (to Mr. Robinson)—I understand you have your witness here?

Mr. Robinson—No. I do not know what your Worship thinks, but Mr. Hankinson, who is an employe in Messrs. Watson & Co. and the witness whom we wanted, has been travelling in Japan and he came to Hongkong this week, but passed on to Manila without the solicitor for the defence becoming aware of it. I am instructed he left Hongkong yesterday.

His Worship—On the last occasion it was understood that the case would be finished in time for the December Criminal Session.

Mr. Robinson—Oh, certainly. I now ask for two or three days' remand in order to have an opportunity of seeing Mr. McKinley, the defendant, because of course we have been awaiting the arrival of this witness and nothing further has passed in the way of instructions. The remand will give plenty of time for the committal.

Mr. Hastings—I must object to any further remand, your Worship. The remand was originally obtained on the ground that there was a witness in Japan. The witness's name was not given and no statement was made by the learned counsel as to what the witness was going to depose to. We have it now that the witness has actually been in this colony and has been allowed to go away without the defence taking any steps to get his evidence taken. There is no reason for the delay and this is only an excuse for an adjournment. If an adjournment is asked for, the name of the witness and the point to which he would depose should be stated in an affidavit. I ask your Worship not to allow any further adjournment except on the filing of an affidavit giving the witness's name.

His Worship (to Mr. Robinson)—Do you not yet know what the defence is?

Mr. Robinson—On the contrary, I am perfectly well aware of the line of the defence. If your Worship chooses to commit the case now it will be open for me to make any observations at the Sessions should it be necessary. I fail to see myself the purport of Mr. Hastings' remarks, because where is the delay if you commit him on Wednesday instead of to-day? Where is the difference so long as he is at the next Criminal Sessions?

His Worship—I understand you want a remand to consult your client?

Mr. Robinson—Quite so.

Mr. Hastings—They have had a month to consult their client.

His Worship—Exactly.

Mr. Hastings—If that is the reason, I ask you to commit the prisoner at once. If the defence have not taken the trouble to consult their client at all—

His Worship—The case for the prosecution was closed on the 10th of last month.

Mr. Hastings—We knew perfectly well that this witness was in the colony, although apparently Mr. Robinson did not take any steps. They have allowed him to go away to Manila and now they want a further delay.

Mr. Robinson—I am struck by the remark that the prosecution knew that Mr. Hankinson, the witness we wanted, was in the colony.

His Worship—The case for the prosecution was closed on the 10th of last month and—

Mr. Robinson—Since that time there has been, so far as I am concerned, no communication with Mr. McKinley.

Mr. Hastings—Whose fault is that, your Worship?

His Worship—Have you any other witness besides Mr. Hankinson?

Mr. Robinson—No, not to-day, certainly not. I did not expect to be here to-day, but Mr. Mounsey, who instructs me, is engaged in a murder case at the Supreme Court, and so I had to come up.

His Worship—You admit that your witness passed through the colony and went away?

Mr. Robinson—I am informed that he did so and without the solicitor for the defence being aware that he was in the colony at all.

Mr. Hastings—If they had wanted to call him they would have taken very good care that he did not go away.

His Worship—You further state you have no other witness to call?

Mr. Robinson—I have not any other witness whatever to-day, your Worship.

His Worship—And you have had no communication with your client since the 13th ult?

Mr. Robinson—I, counsel, have not seen him since the 13th ult. I suppose that was the date of the last adjournment?

His Worship—Yes.

Mr. Robinson—I have not seen him since I was here last.

His Worship—Did not Mr. Hastings communicate with you?

Mr. Hastings—Yes, your Worship; I gave them notice the same day you told me that the case would be proceeded with this afternoon.

Mr. Robinson—I did not know the case was to be gone on with until 12.45 this afternoon.

Mr. Hastings—Then your solicitor did not properly instruct you.

Mr. Robinson—Mr. Mounsey did not intend that I should come up here at all to-day. It does not matter a button.

His Worship—What do you mean by "it does not matter a button?" Do you mean you have no defence and you want two or three days' adjournment.

Mr. Robinson—It does not matter whether Mr. Mounsey or I come up here to-day.

His Worship—Mr. Mounsey knew he had the murder case on the 2nd.

Mr. Robinson—I dare say he did, but perhaps he forgot. That is not a matter of public interest.

His Worship—Do I understand you will have further witnesses if I adjourn the case till Tuesday?

Mr. Robinson—No, I do not say so at all. I should very much like to have one, but I do not know whether I can get him or not.

His Worship (to Mr. Hastings)—I understand you object to the remand?

Mr. Hastings—Yes, I ask that the case be committed for trial now. The defence will have ample opportunity at the Supreme Court to call any witness they like.

His Lordship—I shall commit the case for trial.

Prisoner—Will your Worship allow me to see the letter which is alleged to have been written by me?

His Worship—You have never seen the letter?

Prisoner—Not yet.

The letter was then shown to the prisoner, who, after being warned in the usual way,

made the following statement:—Raymond, the plaintiff in this case, has given me deep cause of offence and I, knowing he was in the habit of smuggling opium, denounced him to the French Consul two days before the arrival of the *Hanoi* in Hongkong; that was on the 28th September last, the day before he left here. The French Consul requested me to give more precise information, so I had Raymond watched and on information which I believed to be true I gave further information to the French Consul. I told Mr. Burnett that I had given information. I made no secret of it. If I had been guilty, is it likely I should have done that? As to the making of a box I have an answer to that, which I reserve.

His Worship then committed the prisoner for trial at the next Criminal Sessions.

Mr. Robinson—I ask your Worship to fix the amount of bail. The prisoner has very limited means.

His Worship—What I did fix it at before?

Mr. Hastings—I think your Worship fixed the bail at \$2,000.

Mr. Robinson—That is quite beyond what he can get. There is a rule in the Magna Charter that bail shall not be excessive.

His Worship—Well, I do not think that is excessive.

The prisoner was then removed in custody.

THE PHILIPPINE REBELLION.

We have received files of the *Comercio* to the 2nd December, from which we take the following items:—

On the night of the 27th November there was an alarm in Manila. The cause was the firing by the sentinels stationed near the Loma cemetery upon a group of suspicious individuals who did not answer when challenged. Upon the firing being heard the bugles of the volunteers were sounded, at eleven o'clock, and all the members of the force not on duty at the time mustered within a few minutes at their appointed stations. The promptitude displayed by the volunteers is highly praised. Upon its being found that their services were not required they were dismissed, the Commandant thanking them in the name of the Governor-General. Next morning, a native woman was found shot in a house in the Calubab district, near the Chinese cemetery, a bullet having struck her in the chest. Her child, an infant at the breast, was wounded, as was also a sister of the deceased woman. The same night at the Vitas canal the sentinels of the carbineros fired upon a boat which did not stop when hailed. The sentinels at the Bilibid gaol also fired some shots.

The volunteers have been ordered to wear their uniform constantly.

In Batangas province, on the 25th November, the force under General Jaramillo defeated a body of rebels from six to eight hundred strong, near the town of Lemery, killing thirty-five of them and wounding a large number.

On the 28th November, while the advance guard of the Spanish forces at Las Pinas were reconitering in the direction of Bacoor, they were attacked by the rebels, who had concealed themselves on each side of the road and amongst the trees, and fighting continued energetically for four hours. The rebels were dislodged from their positions, after repeated bayonet charges, in which they suffered great loss. On the Spanish side there were some wounded, but only a few, amongst them the captain in command.

On the night of 26th November the Spanish took by assault the village of Los Banos, Laguna, which the rebels had fortified. Two hundred of the rebels were killed and many wounded. In their flight the rebels abandoned a large number of cattle which they had stolen and also a large quantity of powder and munitions. In the court-house were found four prisoners of the rebels in fetters.

In the jurisdiction of Antipolo a lieutenant with sixteen men were sent to reconnoitre in the direction of Daang-buquit. At Macatugon hill a body of rebels numbering a thousand, two hundred of whom had firearms, were encountered. This was at ten in the morning and the small Spanish force continued fighting until two in the afternoon, when reinforcements arrived. The battle con-

tinued until half-past four, when the rebels were put to flight, their loss being sixty or seventy killed and many wounded. The loss on the Spanish side was one man killed.

The provinces of Bataan and Zambales, which were not covered by the former proclamation, were declared in a state of siege by a proclamation of the Governor-General dated the 2nd December. From this it would appear that the rebellion is spreading.

In the province of Bulacan, on the 1st December, a column of 310 men attacked a rebel entrenched encampment of 2,000 men in the hills of Sibul and carried it, a quantity of arms and munitions being captured, together with seventeen horses, eleven head of cattle, and thirteen sets of sappers' and miners' tools. Fourteen of the enemy were killed and it is supposed that many were wounded.

The rebels are burning and pillaging when they find an opportunity. On the 26th or 27th November an establishment of the Augustinian Fathers near Malinta was sacked and burnt and an hour later the village was fired, not a single house being left. It is also reported that the hacienda of Lolombo, the property of the Dominicans, and that of Buenavista (San Rafael), the income of which supported the Hospital de San Juan de Dios, have been burnt.

THE JAPANESE MILITARY MISSION IN TONKIN.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

Hanoi, 30th November.

The Japanese military mission, composed of General Kawakami, Colonels Idichi and Mourata, Commander Akashi, and Mr. Shokia a high official of the Civil Administration, accompanied by the Comte de Pimodan, military attaché to the French embassy at Tokyo, arrived at Haiphong on the morning of the 27th inst. by the *Hanoi*, and were received with military honours at the "apptement de l'Hopital" by Mr. Lebrun, the Resident Maire of Haiphong, representing the Government, and by the Lieutenant Colonel de Cauvigny in the name of the army. There were also present Captain Lasalle, from the military bureau of the Government, Lieutenant Lagarde, and two staff officers specially deputed by Mr. Rousseau and General Bichot to accompany the mission from Haiphong to Hanoi. A company of the infanterie de marine with band under Captain Baudot formed a guard of honour. After a short reception at the Residence the whole party visited the town and sights of Haiphong, were entertained at breakfast in the "Hotel de la Residence," and at 2 p.m. the Japanese officers, accompanied by those deputed to accompany them, left by the *Tuyen-quang* for Hanoi.

The heads of departments at Hanoi were notified on Friday evening, the 27th inst., that the Japanese military mission had left Haiphong and would be officially received here. In consequence, the following morning at seven o'clock the troops lined the roads leading from the landing place to the Hotel in the Rue Jules-Ferry, one of the finest buildings here and well fitted up for the reception of the guests. Messrs. Le Coq and Emmanuel Rousseau, accompanied by Commander Lombard, Brigade-Major, Lieutenant de Vasseigne, Messrs. Luce (Director of Civil Affairs), Morel (Resident-Maire), de Pontbanger, and other officials, were in attendance to welcome them. Precisely at eight o'clock a salute of eleven guns announced their arrival, and upon their landing the band of the 9th Regiment of the Marine Infantry struck up the Japanese national hymn "Kymigayo," which was listened to in religious silence by the Japanese officers, and at the conclusion of which they gave the military salute, an action which was repeated when the band played the *Marseillaise*. They then took their seats in the two carriages placed at their disposal during their stay here by the Governor and General Bichot, and were driven to the hotel, preceded by a detachment of mounted gendarmes under Capt. Bonnejoy, and followed by a detachment of mounted native artillery commanded by Lieut. Aotel. The troops saluted as the carriages passed, and the Japanese returned the salute of all the French officers, who lowered their swords.

After having rested themselves for half-an-hour, the Japanese officers paid their official calls, and at 4 p.m. visited the Hospital, whence they proceeded to the Citadel and saw the quarters of the Tirailleurs and the buildings of the Artillery. The splendid quarters of the Militia were also visited. At 7.30 p.m. there was an official dinner at the Governor's Palace, but Mr. Rousseau, being very ill, could not assist, but requested General Bichot to act in his stead. General Bichot drank to the health of their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan, and on behalf of the Governor welcomed the visitors. Colonel Idichi, the only one speaking French fluently, though the others understand English and German, translated; and General Kawakami replied in Japanese, returning thanks for the welcome accorded to the visitors and expressing admiration for the French, to whom no little part was due in the victory of the Japanese over the Chinese, as a great member of the Japanese officers were educated in France. He drank to the health of Mr. and Mrs. Rousseau and all present.

On Sunday the Japanese officers visited the Kin-huoc and the Botanical Gardens, and at night were entertained by the General, the band being in attendance, discoursing nine selections. They left this morning for Phu-lanh-thuong, intending to halt at Buc-ninh for breakfast. They will travel by special train to-morrow morning to Langson, whence they will proceed to the frontier. They have come here specially to study the organisation of the "Territoires Militaires" and the means of defence. They are expected back on the 4th December, and before leaving for Cochin-China will visit Hongay and Kebao coal mines.

THE PLAGUE IN FORMOSA.

[FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]
TAIPEHFU, 24th November.

On November 6th I telegraphed you that after vigorous efforts the plague had been brought under control. The fact that for the last few days previous to that date the new cases had dwindled down to from one to two a day seemed to warrant that supposition, but unfortunately it has now proved to have been premature. New cases have been appearing since to from one to eleven a day, until at present the total number of cases reaches over 100, while the deaths are over 60. A bright sunny day will lessen the number attacked, while a cold day with rain is sure to bring an increase. At present it really seems as though we may soon expect total relief from the pest, as the cases for the last several days have been either none or very few. The following table gives the number of cases up to November 24th:—

October 28th, new cases, 9; 29th, 9; 30th, 4; 31st, 12; Nov. 1st, 12; 2nd, 3; 3rd, 5; 4th, 1; 5th, 2; 6th, 4; 7th, 4; 8th, 3; 9th, 1; 10th, 3; 11th, 1; 12th, 3; 13th, 3; 14th, 7; 15th, 1; 16th, 2; 17th, 4; 18th, 1; 19th, 6; 20th, 2; 21st, 1; 22nd, 2; 23rd, no cases; 24th, 1. Total 106; resulting in death, 62.

There have been fifteen cases among the Chinese, and fourteen deaths have resulted, while with the Japanese out of ninety-one cases but forty-eight have resulted in death. This is accounted for by the great care the Chinese have taken in keeping the knowledge of the disease secret from the Japanese, the afflicted as a rule being almost past all hope before the discovery of the case was made.

It has been generally thought that this and the preceding cases in April, which occurred at Anping and Takow, are the first outbreaks of plague in Formosa. But the Chinese in Taipei now say that for several years a similar disease has broken out in North Formosa which was known to them as the sickness "when the rats die." That this disease, which to the Chinese was marked by the death of rats, was the same plague cannot of course now be ascertained; however, there is no mention made by foreigners of previous plague in Formosa. As a result of the host of workers employed by the Sanitary Bureau the city of Taipei which is but a small place, with a population of 2,580, was easily cleaned and disinfected in a thorough manner, but new cases still continue to appear. This would lead one to believe that some other source of disease exists which renders the total abolishment of the plague specially difficult. This may

possibly be found in the great amount of earth excavating that has been in progress in and about the city. Immense amounts of fresh earth have been thrown up from a canal that is partially completed, leading from the river up to and along one side of the city wall. Regarding this it may be noted that during the construction of the railway, while making the excavation for a cut of considerable size near Kelung, an epidemic broke out among the labourers, so severe that it was necessary to abandon the work in that particular district, running the road around instead of through. As the nature of that disease was not specially examined into by the foreigners it may have also been the plague. However, we have against that supposition the fact that the Japanese in rebuilding the railway line over the same district have made new and greater excavations without suffering from any epidemic attack.

It is specially interesting at present to note the words of Professor Burton, C.E., made after his inspection of the north. Speaking of Taipei city and surroundings he says:—"Sewerage, with the exception of a few stagnant or nearly stagnant canals, does not exist, and the foreshore of the river is in a positively pestilential condition on account of the emptying of garbage upon it;" and again regarding Hobe:—"Much of the usual foul matter is all over the town. This must be abolished and be prevented from accumulating again. The public latrines are without exception the most foul and filthy I have ever seen. They must be reformed. The most part of the whole plain is in a dreadful state, and of the Chinese town near the river up stream (Banka) reformation is impossible; the place ought to be destroyed." The Japanese have under consideration the plans made by Professor Burton for sanitary innovations and the canal now under construction, as mentioned above, is a part of the designs for sewerage in Taipei.

The outbreak of plague is unfortunate just at this period and will no doubt have much to do with discouraging the better class of Japanese in emigrating to the island.

That among the afflicted should be numbered so many Government employes I think the Government itself is somewhat to blame for, not having provided proper living accommodation for those resident here. It would seem that the first and most essential work to have been done here in Formosa would have been the construction of proper quarters, built with a regard for health and comfort and placed at the disposal of all Government employes. In Formosa, specially Taipeifu and suburbs, one's only pleasure is to be derived from the home. A step outside brings one in contact with the most filthy of Chinese life. It would seem particularly essential, then, that the Japanese should have comfortable accommodation, but a walk through the streets or a call on a friend finds them installed in dirty, dark, ill-ventilated Chinese hovels with mud walls, set down in a typical ill-smelling, disease-breeding Chinese street. It is not therefore strange that a pestilential disease has broken out among them, but rather it is more strange that they have escaped so long. The foreigners of the city suburb live in comfortable quarters, in the second storey of roomy, well-ventilated structures. Sickness is a rarity among them. Work has now been commenced on several houses to be occupied by the higher officials, for whom it is first of course most necessary to provide, but it is only too evident that until all have been likewise accommodated disease will periodically lessen the ranks.

Among the Japanese who have died of plague was Mr. Arao, who founded the commercial school for Japanese in Shanghai, an institution of considerable prominence. At the outbreak of the war the school was closed and the students, who were well versed in Chinese, were in great demand by the army and navy as interpreters. Some months ago he arrived in Formosa and very philanthropically exerted himself towards the strengthening of friendly relations between Japanese and Chinese. With this end in view he organized a club, containing as members Japanese and Chinese, which would no doubt have been successful had it not been for his untimely death. Mr. Kambe, a man of wealth and learning who had established hospitals in Taipei and Kelung, is also among the dead.

A few days ago an accident on the railway to Kelung resulted in the death of three, and the wounding of eight Japanese. It was caused by a collision between two trains. One, an early train, stopped on a curve to repair a slight break, while the following train, heavily loaded with railway construction material, ran with but slightly reduced speed into it, smashing things generally.

Taipeifu, 1st December.

The plague still continues to claim occasional victims. The Sanitary Commission is at work more vigorously than ever and it is almost safe to say there is scarcely a spot left untouched. To such an extent are precautions taken that I was amazed to see, a few days since, several sanitary coolies spreading lime over every spot that appeared even the least damp in a stone-paved street which could scarcely be called dirty. It is rather a disagreeable fact, for those who have always considered cleanliness a safeguard against the plague to note that it is not in the dirty places that the disease breaks out. Here in Twatitia, where the foreigners live, there is in the Chinese part of the town, most certainly, sufficient filth to support innumerable bacilli in case and luxuriance, but the only cases that have appeared are in houses not only clean in themselves, but on a paved street which for cleanliness will compare favourably with those at home.

The Chinese, as to be expected, are complaining. They are not only unwilling to clean up themselves, but equally unwilling to allow any one else to perform the task for them. The Japanese hospital, to which for the first few days of the outbreak they were taken for treatment, appeared to them as a most dangerous institution, and no sacrifice was considered too great to make that their sick relatives should not fall into the clutches of the Japanese "medicine maker."

As an example of how atrocity tales are made, the following blood-curdling account was freely believed by the Chinese masses. When Chinese were found weakened, by sickness, so that they could not escape, they were carried to the "medicine house," there stripped of all clothing, and a big white cloth, saturated with the most deadly of poisons, was wrapped about them, causing death. The heart of the dead was then cut out to make medicine for the Japanese, fifty being required to give the proper strength to be effective. Soon after the arrival of the Governor-General, at His Excellency's orders a special hospital for the Chinese was established and placed in charge of a Japanese physician, with a Chinese doctor as assistant and Chinese to act as attendants, but of course under the orders of skilled Japanese. Since this institution has been opened, the Chinese have shown less opposition, and several cases have been voluntarily brought forward by them for treatment. It has also had the effect of discrediting among them the tales regarding the murderous Japanese doctors.

The Governor-General has also shown further consideration for the plague-stricken by visiting the hospital, and it is said he spoke a kind word to all, which had a most cheering effect on the patients there confined. That His Excellency Baron Nogi is obtaining the love and respect of all classes with whom His Excellency comes in contact is very evident, and it is to be hoped that politics will not interfere with His Excellency holding the office of Governor-General for a term of sufficient length to allow him to exercise the ability he undoubtedly possesses in placing Formosa on a comparatively firm and prosperous basis.

The cases of plague up to the present date number for the last few days as follows:—November 22, 1 Chinese, 1 Japanese; November 23, none; November 24, 1 Japanese; November 25, none; November 26, 1 Japanese; November 27, 2 Japanese; November 28, none; November 29, 1 Japanese; November 30, none. Deaths:—November 22, 1 Chinese, 2 Japanese; November 23, none; November 24, 1 Japanese; since none.

Given according to weeks, there were during the first week 54 cases, the second 18, the third 21, the fourth 15, and the fifth, with the addition of any cases that should occur to-day which ends the week, only 4 cases. According to this, it does seem as though we might expect to see the complete wiping out of the plague within a few days.

JAMES W. DAVIDSON

NEW BALMORAL GOLD MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The second ordinary meeting of the New Balmoral Gold Mining Co., Limited., was held in the Company's Offices, 38 and 40, Queen's Road Central, at noon on Saturday. Mr. Hart Back presided and there were also present—Messrs. W. H. Potts, C. Ewens, G. R. Stevens, E. Georg, W. E. Clement, W. Jones Hughes, T. F. Hough, E. K. Chandler, H. Humphreys, E. S. Kelly, J. Jupp, B. Rustomjee, J. M. E. Machado, Sin Tak, and Lai Shan.

Mr. JUPP read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, the report and accounts having been in your hands several days I will, with your permission, take them as read. I may mention that these accounts are made up to the 30th of September last in Hongkong, a date previous to that on which our firm took over the general management of the Company, but I will, should anyone be desirous of asking any questions, do my best to explain anything you may wish to know. We regret to say that the working for the period under review has not been a success, and we are afraid that your late mining manager, who we learn has committed suicide while temporarily insane, was not in a condition of health to give your interests the fullest consideration. This is the more unfortunate as we are informed by our present mining manager that in his opinion the capital you had was quite sufficient to have carried the mines to a successful issue, but that it has been wasted in the most reckless manner. Of course, gentlemen, we have to a great extent to rely on the competency and honesty of our mining managers, and I am pleased to inform you that we have every confidence in our present staff, and we feel sure that they will watch your interests as closely as if they were their own. It is needless to say that we cannot work without money, and you have all probably noticed that an extraordinary general meeting will be held on the 14th of this month to pass the necessary resolutions for the issue of preference shares. Our latest advices by letter from the mines are quite satisfactory and inform us that crushing from the Queen's mine was about to be commenced, and that they expected it would be carried on continuously for at least several months. The estimate formed by the mining manager is that 3 dwt. to the ton will pay working expenses. If this estimate is a correct one and the quality of the stone anything like as good as we believe it to be, we think that with the necessary working capital our enterprise is bound to succeed. I should like to take this opportunity of referring to the proposed sale of your property, together with that of our neighbour's, the Olivers Freehold mines, to a London Company. We hear from Mr. J. D. Humphreys, who has spent the greater part of this summer at the mines, that he was not at all surprised that the London Company did not buy, as when their expert arrived there was really very little for him to see. On the Balmoral property, although every effort was made, it was impossible to get the mines in a sufficiently advanced state for inspection. Most of the work done before Mr. Willmott took charge was to all intents and purposes useless. It was not the kind of work that was likely to make the mines permanently paying, and in fact was apparently done without any set purpose or any definite object in view. As regards the Olivers properties, the 100 acre Freehold is practically unworked, and the old Eureka shaft having been abandoned as unsafe, the new shaft which was being sunk was naturally not sufficiently advanced to enable the expert to form any definite opinion as to the value of the property. Under these circumstances we cannot feel any surprise that the negotiations fell through, but from present appearances we are justified in thinking that the failure of the negotiations may eventually turn out to your advantage, and can assure you that everything we can do to bring about this desired result will be done. I shall be pleased to answer any questions in connection with the report and statement of accounts.

Mr. GEORG—I notice under liabilities an amount of \$18,000 loan. Has that loan been repaid or is it still in existence?

The CHAIRMAN—The loan has been repaid by ourselves.

Mr. GEORG—Can you give me any information about the \$16,000, which appears as general expenses in the working account? It looks a big amount. I should like to know a little more about it.

The CHAIRMAN—That amount is greatly in excess of the amount in the previous report. It is made up principally by a balance of wages unadjusted at the mines. There appears to have been a balance of £819 18s. 6d. due for wages which had not been adjusted and the amount was charged to this account instead of being put to the mining account. It was found that the stores used by the mine were short by about £300, and in the bookkeeping this account had not been charged at the mines, and when Mr. Willmott took over the mine it was found out. That makes a total of £1,118 16s. 9d. out of the \$16,000.

Mr. GEORG—Then, as a matter of fact, this amounts to gross carelessness on the part of those people who kept the books at that time.

The CHAIRMAN—In Australia?

Mr. GEORG—Yes.

The CHAIRMAN—Certainly.

Mr. GEORG—One of the charges is \$1,800 odd for postages and stationery at head office. Where do those charges come from, because the rent is already charged separately?

The CHAIRMAN—There are two amounts paid on commission—\$250 each paid for commission on a loan to the Company, making \$500, and \$955.22 is due for special reports on the mines handed to the Company. The amount is due, but has not been paid.

Mr. HOUGH—I should like to know, Mr. Chairman—you have given us a lot of particulars about discrepancies in the Australian accounts—I should like to know why the past managers, or those who were managers for the time being, did not give the shareholders some information about the discrepancies, as they must have known of the discrepancies, I should think. If not, why not?

The CHAIRMAN—Are you referring to the charges?

Mr. HOUGH—To the question you have just answered Mr. Georg.

Mr. GEORG—About general expenses.

The CHAIRMAN—You could hardly call them discrepancies in the charges, etc. They are perfectly correct. Of course all the Australian accounts are general expenses. Certainly these accounts ought to have appeared earlier, but the fault altogether lies in Australia. The late general manager and secretary could not get the accounts before, and when they eventually got them they had to come in. I believe the late general manager repeatedly wrote to get the accounts up, but they were not forthcoming.

Mr. GEORG—I think that under the present circumstances, as we have been working at such a heavy loss, the directors ought not to draw their fees, at least not in full.

The CHAIRMAN—As a matter of fact the directors have not drawn their fees.

Mr. GEORG—They are charged in the accounts.

The CHAIRMAN—They must be charged as a matter of bookkeeping. According to the articles of association they are entitled to their fees and the amount must appear. That must be left for future consideration.

The CHAIRMAN then moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. RUSTOMJEE seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—I have much pleasure in proposing that Mr. J. H. Cox be reappointed auditor for the coming year.

Mr. STEVENS seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen. I thank you for your attendance.

The German cruiser *Prinzess Wilhelm*, which arrived at Nagasaki on the 25th November to dock for repairs, will probably not be ready to leave for a couple of months.

THE LAOU-KUNG-MOW COTTON SPINNING AND WEAVING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The annual general meeting of the Laou-kung-mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving Company, Limited, was held at Shanghai on the 30th November.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. J. S. Fearon) said—Gentlemen, the balance sheet, which has been printed with the report, is merely a statement of receipts and expenditure up to the 31st of October, and calls for very few remarks from me. Under the head of capital you will notice that we have issued 5,577 shares, making our capital paid-up Tls. 557,000; sixty shares more have been applied for. At the last general meeting there were 740 shares unissued, and of these 363 remain. The unpaid calls on shares held are almost entirely in England and advice of payment may be expected by any mail. As regards expenditure, under the head of rent we have entered the amount paid for our first year's rent, viz., Tls. 5,350; the balance is made up of a sum Tls. 5,650, which had to be paid to the previous lessee, and Municipal taxes. There is an item under advance payments account, which is composed of two years' rent in advance. When the Directors settled the lease of the ground, it was arranged that the first three years' rent should be payable in shares, and we have therefore issued 160 shares in payment of this, two years of which would not have been due in the ordinary bourse. Our buildings are approaching completion; the cost is very much more than we anticipated, but the rise in building materials has been very marked, and our neighbours have been affected in the same way. We have had our buildings erected in a very solid and substantial manner, and are making the mill as nearly fireproof as possible. The machinery is now in course of erection, and as it is of the highest class and contains the latest improvements we have every confidence that it will prove thoroughly efficient. Our total expenditure will amount to about the same as our capital and we hope that the return on the investment will prove to be a satisfactory one to you. It is true that a great advance has taken place in the value of cotton here since our mill was started, but yarn has also advanced in price, and the margin between the two is not materially changed. If there are any questions you would like to ask I shall be happy to answer them.

There being no questions, the Chairman then proposed and it was seconded by Mr. KORFF that the report and accounts, as presented, be accepted and passed.

Carried unanimously.

It was proposed by Mr. WILKINSON, and seconded by Mr. F. ANDERSON, that the retiring Directors, Messrs. A. Korff and Chung Liang-yue, be re-elected.

Carried unanimously.

Proposed by Mr. A. W. DANFORTH, seconded by Mr. CUSHNY, that Mr. G. R. Wingrove be re-elected auditor for the ensuing year.

Carried unanimously.

This finished the business of the meeting.

At Shanghai on the 30th November, shortly after four o'clock in the morning, fire broke out in the house No. 345, Shantung Road, and spread to the adjoining houses. The fire alarms were rung and the Fire Brigade put in its usual prompt appearance. The flames, however, were in a peculiarly difficult position, as regards proximity to hydrants, and the firemen in consequence experienced considerable difficulty in getting to work on them. This will be understood when we mention that all the hose on nine trucks was utilised, meaning that 4,500 feet of it were laid down. As soon, however, as four or five streams had been brought to bear, the conflagration soon died, and the firemen were able to leave shortly after six o'clock. Several insurance companies are interested; the North British to the extent of Tls. 5,000; the Union Insurance Society of London, Tls. 5,000; the South British, Tls. 3,000; and the Imperial, Tls. 2,000. The three first mentioned we learn will be total losses, and the latter a partial one. The origin of the fire is unknown. *Mercury*.

SHOOTING COMPETITION.

THE WALLACE CUP.

L.R.C.

1st Innings.	2nd Innings.
K. W. Mounsey, c Gordon,	
b Davies	11
T. Sercombe Smith, did not bat	b Davies
Capt. Langhorne, st. Arthur,	24
b Howard	
27	not out
18	8
Rev. G. Vallings, run out	did not bat
C. C. Inghald, b Mast	3
3	did not bat
Surg.-Major Johnston, b	
Davies	11
11	not out
Dr. Atkinson, c Howard,	
b Davies	19
19	did not bat
Capt. Loveband, not out	12
12	c Gordon; b Howard.
F. Plumer, R.N., lb.w., b	
Wood	2
2	b Davies
0	0
E. L. Berger, b Howard	0
0	did not bat
6	Extras
	3
109	62

First Innings.

	Over.	Maid.	Runs.	Wides.	NB.	Wickets.
Davies.....	10	2	31	—	—	3
Lammert.....	10	1	17	—	—	—
Mast.....	14	6	20	—	—	—
Crawford.....	5	—	13	—	—	—
Howard.....	4	1	19	—	2	1
Ward.....	1	—	4	—	—	—
Wood.....	1	1	—	—	—	1
Second Innings.						
Gordon.....	7	—	17	—	—	—
Howard.....	4	—	21	—	—	1
Wood.....	6	4	8	—	—	—
Davies.....	4	—	12	—	—	3
Mast.....	1	—	2	—	—	—

O. Gordon, W.Y., st. Plumer, b Vallings	23
P. G. Davies, R.A., c Johnston, b Langhorne	5
A. G. Ward, b Vallings	57
T. Howard, W.Y., c sub b Vallings	47
M. D. Wood, W.Y., c sub b Vallings	4
E. Mast, c sub b Vallings	19
A. Anderson, b T. S. Smith	0
H. Arthur, b Vallings	1
L. S. Crawford, b Vallings	0
R. F. Lommert, not out	28
J. Graham, b Vallings	0
Extras	11

	Overs.	Maid.	Runs.	Wides.	NB.	Wickets
Vallings	23	4	87	1	—	8
Langhorne ...	11	1	39	—	—	1
T. S. Smith ...	18	4	47	—	—	1
Johnston	2	—	14	—	—	—

The result of above competition is as follows:—

	Wins.	
Sergt. McPhail...	5	Winner of Cup & Spoons.
Corp. Henderson.	3	" Spoons.
Gunner Stewart...	3	" "
" Rutter ...	3	" "
" Deas	2	" "
" Gow	2	" "
Lieut. Macdonald.	1	" "
Corp. Ewing	1	" "
Gunner White ...	1	" "
" Gilchrist.	1	" "
" Hand.....	1	" "
" Harmann.	1	" "

BEST SCORE CUP FOR NOVEMBER.

Mr. C. A. Tomes	92	15	77
Mr. H. W. Slade	97	18	79
Mr. C. H. Grace	98	12	86
Mr. P. de C. Morris	101	13	88
Mr. A. J. R. Greene, R.A.	108	12	96

THIRD CLUB RACE, 6TH DEC., 1896.

Active.....	Mr. H. E. Pollock.
Meteor.....	Mr. T. W. Lammert.
Princes.....	Mr. Jas. McKie.
Maid Marion..	Mr. J. Hastings.
Phoebe.....	Mr. F. H. May.
Erica.....	Mr. A. Denison.
Sybil.....	Officers R.E.
Chanticleer ..	Mr. C. A. Tomes.
ollowed ten minutes afterwards by:—	
Dart.....	Dr. Clark.
She.....	M. E. M. Hazeland.
Eileen.....	Capt. Phillips.
Seabreeze.....	Capt. Sterling.

A light breeze from the east brought the boats to the Lyeemun mark in much the same order, except that Sybil passed Meteor; Erica passed Active, and Chanticleer gave up. Another calm at Kowloon Rock caused the leading six boats to

FIRST CLASS

Sybil.....	4.27.45	First	10 marks
Maid Marian ...	4.28.35	Second	4 marks
Erica.....	4.31.10	Third	1 mark
Phoebe	4.33. 8		
Meteor	4.34. 0		
Active	4.37.30		
Princess	4.42.30		

SECOND CLASS.

Dart	4.47.04	First ...	10 marks
She	5.17.50	Second...	4 marks
Aileen	5.28.40	Third ...	1 mark

FIRST CLASS.

Sybil.....	15	She.....	24
Maid Marian.....	14	Dart.....	14
Erica.....	11	Seabreeze.....	4
Phoebe.....	4	Aileen.....	1
Meteor.....	1		

From the revelations made in the last speech of Lord Rosebery we have learnt, not without some stupefaction, that at one moment war was on the point of breaking out between France and England *à propos* of Siam affairs. The incident of the English gunboat in the Menam not having been settled to the satisfaction of the Foreign Office, the British press is obliged to confess that England's prestige has been greatly diminished in the eyes of the Siamese. We now learn that in order to regain the lost ground the Cabinet of St. James is recommencing its intrigues against us at the Bangkok Court, and our representative, M. Defrance, has even had to warn the King of Siam of the dangerous path he would pursue in submitting any longer to the perfidious influence of England. It is important, in effect, that our rights, consecrated by the 1893 treaty, should be respected. Our influence over protégés in Annam, Cambodia, and the Laos should never be allowed to decay; our authority must remain incontestable. It depends upon our firmness to prevent the French agents and negotiators becoming the laughing stock of the Siamese. If the English wish to recover their diminished influence at our expense by seeking to turn Siam against France it will be our business to repeat the little lesson which has already so well succeeded. England will twiddle her thumbs, and some years afterwards we shall find, as to-day, an ex-premier declaring that she had the intention of showing her teeth. These are consolations which, after all, we can allow to English statesmen trying to regain a lost popularity.

CANTON NOTES:

FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."

On the night of the 2nd ultimo about two hundred and sixty robbers made an attack at a place named Tin-tau-hu, in the prefecture of Loi-chow. The robbers came by long boats. About seventy shops and thirty family houses were robbed. Two policemen who opposed the robbers were fatally shot. The robbers carried away eight small girls and booty to the value of about sixteen thousand dollars. They next devoted their attention to a pawnshop in the neighbourhood. The shop people had made all preparations and the fortune of the robbers was this time turned, for they were fired at from the front and the back by the shop people and the policemen and were obliged to withdraw, leaving three of their number prisoners. The captives were brought before the local Magistrate who sentenced them to death. The same band of robbers made an attack on a place named Pak-ha-hu in broad day-light on the 8th ultimo. They painted their faces black, so that they

could not be recognised. They plundered all the houses and got away scot free without meeting with any opposition. A good many wealthy families have removed from the disturbed place to safer localities. It is said the robbers had a very large force and their leaders are named Chan, Wong, and Ho. They have sent out men to all the districts to induce people to join them to raise a rebellion.

A merchant named Hu Yung-chak has applied to the Government to be allowed to establish a flour mill in Canton. His application has been sent to Im Hau-kuk for consideration.

It is said that a memorial has been submitted to the Throne by a censor recommending a gold currency for China. The memorialist states that China suffered great loss from the currency of silver, which has depreciated in value.

A restaurant named Fuk-tim inside the city was robbed on the 1st instant. The robbers, about six in number, went into the shop in the evening to take refreshments. After they had finished their dinner they tied up all the inmates and took away all the money found therein to the value of four hundred taels. The case has been reported to the Pun-u Magistrate and rewards have been offered for the arrest of the robbers.

MACAO.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

The last number of the *Echo Macaense* has a leading article referring to my correspondence, and especially to the letter of the 20th November published in your issue of the 21st idem, in which reference is made to the Leal Senado. I have indeed very often mentioned the Leal Senado, and why? Because this corporation has not been acting wisely or properly discharging the duties for which it was elected, and again I must say that all matters in charge of the Senado are in a disgraceful condition and its administration is conducted in a most unsatisfactory manner.

In the second paragraph of the article in question it is stated that in this colony Chinese passengers are not examined on their arrival, nor yet their luggage. Perhaps the work is not carried out so seriously or systematically as in Hongkong or by the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs, because in this colony seriousness or system in public matters are almost unknown, but whoever wrote the article must have a very short memory, for was not a pot of opium found in a pillow box to belonging to a Chinese passenger from Hongkong only a week ago? When the owner saw detection was imminent he handed the box to a servant of a Chinese boarding house, and when the case was taken into court next day the proprietor of the boarding house was held responsible and was fined \$90. A day or two before this case happened was not a man who came over from Lappa arrested for having a small quantity of opium in his possession? I believe this man is still in gaol, not having money to pay the fine. Can the writer of the article in the *Echo Macaense* say by whom these arrests were ordered to be made? If no search is made of Chinese passengers and their luggage how is it that opium smuggling is so often detected and people arrested for having opium in their possession? How can any one guess what another person has in his pocket, or in his box without a search?

By the law of this country is a person who is unable either to read or write entitled to vote? Certainly not; but perhaps such a person may be eligible for election to the Leal Senado. That is what I would like to know, but the writer of the article says not a word on this important point.

As to the rest of the article, it is unworthy of notice, but I should like to refer to the fine poem of the late Joao de Deus entitled "Money," in which he says "The thrilling sound of money can much effect." What the distinguished author says might be well applied to many people in this colony, for the thrilling sound of money seems to make them forget all about their dignity and public duty. People who can make money jingle in other people's pockets can secure good testimonials and decorations

and absolution for any fault committed. But for all this some one has to provide the money.

In my last letter I referred to the monopolies granted in this colony and the decay of trade thereby caused. The last quarterly issue of the *Chinese Customs Gazette* shows how trade has been falling off during the last three years. In 1894, during the June-September quarter, the export of kerosine from Macao was 107,177 gallons, in 1895 during the same months 57,970 gallons, and in 1896 during the same months 28,700 gallons. A comparison of these figures will show if the monopoly has not killed trade in this article, and as the amount payable for the monopoly was increased at the last letting the price of the article will surely be raised and the small remaining trade be diminished. Another important branch of trade affected is that of salt-fish. The export figures for the June-September quarter in 1894, 1895, and 1896 are as follow:—1894, 4,991 piculs; 1895, 2,667 piculs; 1896, 1,150 piculs. This falling off naturally results from the high price charged by the salt monopolist for salt, in consequence of which the fishermen of Macao are transferring their industry to places where they can get salt cheaper.

If the Government does not look seriously into this matter and do away with monopolies on articles of trade soon this place will be completely ruined. Already our hopes of better days to come have dwindled to a very low ebb.

The Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Co. have addressed the Government, representing that their steamers cannot reach the wharf at low tide and requesting that the approaches may be dredged. An order was given the other day to proceed with the dredging, but this will prove effective only for a few weeks or months. What is required is a comprehensive scheme of harbour improvement, and if it cannot be done all at once let it be done little by little. Some of Engineer Loureiro's plans have already been commenced, and they should be continued steadily, a bit at a time, remembering that Rome was not built in a day.

The following have been elected members of the Leal Senado for 1897-98:—Antonio Joaquim Basto, Pedro Nolasco da Silva, Antonio Gomes Brandao, Luiz Joao Baptista, Joze Ribeiro, and Fermio Machado de Mendonça.

Next Sunday there is another election for three members if the Tribunal das Contas. I hope the public will re-elect the present members, who are worthy of the position.

HONGKONG.

The Legislative Council met on the 3rd inst. for the first time this Session and a second meeting was held on Monday last. Important and interesting business was transacted on each occasion. His Excellency the Governor met the newly elected directors of the Tung Wah Hospital on Thursday and made suggestions for the future conduct of the institution. The Sanitary Board met on the same day, and on Saturday the second meeting of the New Balmoral Gold Mining Company was held.

The German cruiser *Kaiser* arrived from Amoy on the 4th December.

The Hongkong Philharmonic Society will give a concert on Thursday, 17th December.

There were 2,319 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 199 were Europeans.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that M. Frandon has been recognised as in charge of the French Consulate during the absence of M. E. Leroux.

The football match on Monday between the Hongkong Football Club and an Artillery team resulted in a draw, each side scoring one goal.

The Hongkong Amateur Dramatic Club will give performances of "Charley's Aunt" on Saturday, 19th December, and Monday, 21st December.

With the awakening of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps has come a new crest. The motto is "Nulli secundus in Oriente." The Corps has always been modest.

At the regular meeting of Zetland Lodge on Tuesday night Bro. R. Mitchell was elected Worshipful Master for the ensuing year and Wor. Bro. G. A. Caldwell Treasurer.

Sentence of three months' imprisonment was on the 2nd December passed on a Wanchai stall holder who tried to swindle a private in the West Yorkshire Regiment. The soldier bought some oranges and his change consisted of 94 cents of bad money.

A Spanish gentleman recently came to Hongkong from Manila because he thought he would be safer in this colony than in his own disturbed country. He stayed at a friend's house in Mosque Street and one day had the misfortune to be robbed of two gold rings, set with diamonds and rubies and valued at \$150. The thief turned out to be the houseboy, and on the 3rd December he was charged at the Police Court and sent to goal for three months.

A very pleasant evening was spent at the Union Church on Thursday night, when a social meeting was held. Light refreshments were served and a most successful concert was then given. Mr. G. Grimable accompanied and the vocalists were Mrs. Mudie, Mrs. Hagen, Miss Crawford, Mr. J. Gilchrist, and Mr. J. Waddell. The Misses Crawford and Mr. Lindsay Crawford contributed a trio for violin, flute, and piano, and Miss L. Crawford a violin solo.

At the Supreme Court on the 2nd December his Honour Dr. Carrington (Chief Justice) sentenced Lai Su to nine months' imprisonment for unlawfully detaining a girl for the purposes of prostitution. The prisoner was found guilty the other day, but sentence was reserved owing to a point of law raised by Mr. Robinson, who appeared for the prisoner. The point was argued before the Full Court, and their Lordships dismissed it without calling upon the Acting Attorney-General to reply.

The two men charged with piracy and murder near Green Island were put on their trial at the Criminal Sessions on the 4th December. Hon. H. E. Pollock (Acting Attorney-General), instructed by Mr. H. L. Dennys (Crown Solicitor), appeared for the prosecution, and Hon. Ho Kai, instructed by Mr. Mounsey, defended. The special jury were Messrs. F. Dodwell, S. C. Michaelson, J. S. Van Buren, G. C. Anderson, R. C. Wilcox, J. B. Heemskerk, and J. Grant Smith. The case was not concluded until the 7th, when a verdict of not guilty was returned.

The following returns of the average amount of Bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong during the month ended 30th November, 1896, as certified by the Managers of the respective Banks, are published:—

Banks.	Average amount.	Specie in reserve.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China...	\$1,910,776	\$1,000,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.	4,575,137	2,500,000
National Bank of China, Limited	368,109	165,000

Total... \$6,854,022 \$3,665,000

The Committee of the Hongkong Football Competition met on Friday evening and drew the ties for the first round of the Tournament. The results were as follow:—

A Company, 14th Regiment, bye.

Royal Engineers, bye.

H.M.S. *Centurion*, bye.

H.M.S. *Narcissus* v. Kowloon.

H Company, 14th Regt. v. D Co. 14th Regt.

Hongkong Colts v. 35th Company, R.A.

Hongkong Football Club v. 12th Co., R.A.

B Company, 14th Regt. v. Officers 14th Regt.

The first-named teams have choice of ground and must supply balls. The matches in this round must be played off before 14th January.

On the 2nd December Hon. Commander Hastings held an inquiry respecting the death of two children who were drowned in the harbour on the 25th inst. The British steamer *Fooksang* was coming into port from the eastern entrance when she had to port her helm to get clear of the *Chiyuen*. A cargo boat went across the bows of the *Fooksang*, which ran into and cut her in two. The occupants of the cargo boat were thrown into the water. They were all rescued, but the two children did not recover, although the police used artificial respiration. The Magistrate returned the following verdict:—"Death by drowning, the result of an accident due to an error made by the cargo boat people."

Many people in Hongkong will be interested to learn that at the request of the Macao Municipal Council the Governor of that colony has written to the Portuguese Secretary of State for the Colonies recommending Dr. Marques for a knighthood in recognition of services rendered.

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, advises us that he has received the following telegram giving the result of the November clean-up at the Punjom Mines:—"The mill ran 26 days crushing 1,150 tons yielding 530 ozs of smelted gold, forty-five tons of concentrates calcined yielding 77 ozs of smelted gold."

The northerly squall on Friday night was responsible for many accidents in the harbour, a number of boats being considerably damaged, particularly off West Point, where the force of the wind was mostly felt. The most serious mishap occurred to a stone junk, which was capsized in the anchorage. There were sixteen occupants and nine of them are missing, and it is feared that they were drowned.

We are requested by the committee of the Al Fresco Fête of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to state that the proceeds of the Fête held on the 17th November last amount to about \$2,000. The committee desire to publicly acknowledge their appreciation of the generous support accorded to the Society by the community, both foreign and Chinese. The treasurer requests that those gentlemen who have not yet paid for the tickets sent to them will kindly do so as soon as possible.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1896-97	1895-96
	lbs.	lbs.
Canton and Macao	5,766,784	6,639,427
Shanghai and Hankow.....	17,296,142	19,439,827
Foochow	12,009,532	8,518,499
	35,072,458	34,597,753

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1896-97	1895-96
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai	16,070,583	26,506,813
Amoy	14,569,921	9,811,046
Foochow	1,131,222	1,608,212
	31,771,731	37,926,071

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1896-97	1895-96
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow	22,949,123	27,240,863

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1896-97	1895-96
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	24,471,012	28,830,449
Kobe	12,036,362	17,538,581
	36,527,374	46,369,030

SILK.

Shanghai, 4th December.—(From Mr. A. R. Burkill's Circular).—London advices to 2nd current quote Gold Kilins 8/7½ and Blue Elephant 10/8. Raw Silk.—The market is quite lifeless and transactions are very limited indeed. Prices are weak for White Silks, but no offers are being made, it is difficult to say at what figures dealers would make business. Tantles.—About 100 bales have changed hands at 2½ taels per picul under last mail's quotations. Taysams.—Are held for full prices owing to scarcity, and about 50 bales are settled of Kahings on the basis of Tls. 35/7½ for Gold Lion 4. Yellow Silks.—Have been fairly active, and some 250 bales have been bought at quotations below. Arrivals, at per Customs Returns 26th November to 2nd December, 710 bales White, 316 piculs Yellow, and 605 piculs of Wild Silks. Filatures and re-reels.—No transactions have transpired. The export of Steam Filatures to date is as follows:—To London 2 bales, Continent 1,082 bales, and America 922 bales. Wild Silk.—About 1,000 bales are being delivered this week, in fulfilment of previous contracts. Quotations are Tls. 185/192½

for fair to good grades. Waste Silk.—No transactions. Pongees.—About 2,000 pieces Shantung have been settled at Tls. 1.70 to Tls. 2.00 for 18 in. by 16 yds. by 20 oz., Tls. 2.55 for 18 in. by 1½ yds. by 22 oz., Tls. 3.20 for 19 in. by 19 yds. by 23 oz.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1896-97	1895-96
	bales.	bales.
Canton	15,830	11,633
Shanghai	28,039	40,026
Yokohama	6,245	13,124
	50,114	64,788

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1896-97	1895-96
	bales.	bales.
Canton	1,832	7,126
Shanghai	2,423	6,557
Yokohama	7,313	18,727
	11,368	32,410

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 8th December.—There is little change to report in the condition of this market. Quotations for Formosa at \$54.25 to \$54.50. During the week sales have been 200 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 8th December.—Large arrivals are reported and prices are declining. Following are the quotations:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White...	\$7.40 to 7.23 per picul.
do. " 2, White...	6.63 to 6.65 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown...	4.46 to 4.50 "
do. " 2, Brown...	4.31 to 4.35 "
Swatow, No. 1, White...	7.07 to 7.10 "
do. " 2, White...	7.22 to 7.25 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown...	4.40 to 4.42 "
do. " 2, Brown...	4.20 to 4.28 "
Soochow Sugar Candy	11.10 to 11.13 "
Shakloong "	9.25 to 9.55 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The steamer *Japan*, Hongkong to Rotterdam, 28th November, took:—153 cases Preserves; for Glasgow:—200 cases Preserves, and 3 packages Private Effects; for Manchester:—100 bales Waste Silk; for London:—5,423 boxes Tea (21,987 lbs. Congou, 86,583 lbs. Scented Capar, and 3,213 lbs. Scented Orange Pekoe), 400 packages Tea (in transit), 2 packages Tea (unenumerated), 1 case Cigars, 2 cases Sundries, 150 bales Waste Silk, 610 bales Cans, 97 rolls Mate, 6 cases Bristles, 150 cases Blackwoodware, 20 cases Bambooware, 8 cases Burious, 11 cases Sundries, 16 cases Dry Lychees, 85 cases Essential Oil, 510 cases preserves, and 300 cases Preserves; for Mar eilles:—25 bales Waste Silk, 2 bales Human Hair, and 2 cases Silk Piece Goods.

The steamer *Ravenna*, Hongkong to London, 3rd December, took:—1,693 boxes Tea (35,533 lbs. Congou), 50 bales Waste Silk, 15 cases Silk Piece Goods, 290 rolls Mat, and Matting, and 1 case Cigars; for Gibraltar:—3 cases Chinaware; for France:—130 bales Raw Silk, 4 cases Silk Piece Goods, and 1 case Cocoons.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 8th December.—Bengal.—There has been a further drop in prices, New Patna being quoted at the close at \$712½, Old Patna of the year before last at \$630, New Benares at \$707½, and Old Benares at \$715.

Malwa.—A very moderate quantity of business has passed in this drug during the interval. Prices have not undergone any change, the following being the latest figures:—

New (this yr's) 770 with all'ances of 0 to ½ cts.	
" (last yr's) \$780	0 to 1 "
Old (2¼ yrs.) \$790	0 to 1 "
Older (5/10 yrs.) \$800	1 to 1½ "
Persian.—Scarcely any transaction has passed in this drug during the period under review, and quotations close at \$500 to \$560 for Oily, and at \$500 to \$570 for Paper-wrapped descriptions, according to quality.	

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna	2,230 chests.
Old Patna	22 "
New Benares	370 "
Old Benares	240 "
Malwa	320 "
Persian	360 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1896.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Dec. 3	715	630	710	715	770/780	790/800
Dec. 4	715	630	710	715	770/780	790/800
Dec. 5	715	630	710	715	770/780	790/800
Dec. 6	715	630	710	715	770/780	790/800
Dec. 7	712½	630	707½	715	770/780	790/800
Dec. 8	712½	630	707½	715	770/780	790/800

RICE.

HONGKONG, 8th December.—The market is again weaker and prices are a little lower. Closing quotations are:—

	per picul.
Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.44 to 2.47
" Round, good quality	2.62 to 2.65
" Long	2.75 to 2.78
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2	2.57 to 2.60
" Garden, " No. 1	2.80 to 2.83
" White	3.42 to 3.45
" Fine Cargo	3.67 to 3.70

COALS.

HONGKONG, 8th December.—Market quiet. Quotations are:—

Cardiff	\$15.00 to 16.50 ex godown, nom.
Australian	6.25 to 6.50 ex ship, nominal.
Milke Lump	5.60 to 5.75 ex ship, nominal.
Milke Small	4.65 to — ex ship, do.
Moji Lump	4.25 to 5.75 ex ship, nominal.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 8th December.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS:—Bombay Yarn.—880 bales No. 10 at \$78 to \$32.50, 263 bales No. 12 at \$81.50 to \$36, 100 bales No. 16 at \$89 to \$31, 765 bales No. 20 at \$93 to \$101. Grey Shirtings.—7.0 pieces 7 lbs. Large Eagle at \$2, 300 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Pheasant at \$2.20. White Shirtings.—450 pieces Gold Tiger at \$5.92½, 500 pieces Blue Lion at \$5.77½, 250 pieces No. 300 at \$3.52½. T-Cloths.—300 pieces Mexican X. X. at \$3.09½.

METALS:—Yellow Metals.—100 cases New 14/20 ozs. at \$26.40. Tin.—10½ slabs Fungchai at \$32.50.

Shanghai 4th December.—(From Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co's Piece Goods Trade Report). Piece Goods.—The market has remained very quiet during the week, there not being much interest in the small business reported; the transactions for the most part being merely resales among Chinese. The position, however, continues hopeful, the general enquiry among native holders tending to make the market firmer than it has been for some time past. This enquiry has led to several offers being submitted to Manchester for forward business and in several instances sales have resulted, but buying cannot be said to be general owing, no doubt, to indentors here declining to come up to the level of the home market. It is said that the last steamer has left for Canton, so the season may now be considered closed, but the quantity of Piece Goods she takes forward is poor when compared with former years. Seeing that this market has of late been far from active and that supplies there are not overabundant, stocks may be pretty well run out during the winter and cause a healthy demand when the port opens next Spring. Dealers, however, have the option of buying before that time arrives. Advices from Newchwang report a strong market, P. M. C. Drills being easily saleable at Tls. 3.60, while prices for Indian Yarn have advanced several taels. This is, however, of little use to holders here, seeing that no more goods can be sent forward this season. The Szechuen market is suffering from one of the prolonged rainy seasons, landslips, and floods which have spread over a large area of the country, and this in a way is affecting the Hankow district, demands from which have not been so buoyant as they were. There is no change to be noted in the advices from the other Outports.

Metals.—(From Messrs. Alex. Biefield & Co's Report) 4th December.—During the week under review there has been but little business done, and the Chinese are inclined to take a rather gloomy view of the future for some months. Prices at home remain about the same, but with a decided upward tendency. Hard Spelter has gone up to \$17.7, Lead to \$13, Scrap Iron to 73½ and Corrugated Sheet Iron to 13.6, an advance of

22/3 in the cases of Spelter. Latest home reports (4th October) confirm the improvement noticed both in the Iron and Steel markets and in the Metals. The rumoured extension by the Customs of the transit pass privileges allowed by traders will almost undoubtedly have a great influence for the better on our local markets.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

TUESDAY, 8th December.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer	2/1½
Bank Bills, on demand	2/1½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/1½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/1½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/1½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/2

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand	2.67
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.72

ON GERMANY.—

On demand	2.16
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ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand	51½
Credits, 60 days' sight	52½

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer	166½
Bank, on demand	167

ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer	166½
Bank, on demand	167

ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight	72½
Private, 30 days' sight	72½

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand	¼ pm.
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ON MANILA.—

On demand	8½ pm.
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ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand	¼ pm.
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SOVEREIGNS Bank's Buying Rate

9.30

GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael

48.60

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, December 8th.—There is no improvement to report; the market having continued to rule dull, without activity, and almost featureless. Rates have still shown a further slight tendency to weakness, and there seems but little immediate prospect of any great activity in the market.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have remained quiet, with little or no business, at 180 per cent. premium; on time a small number of shares have changed hands at equivalent rates. Nationals and Bank of China dull and neglected at quotations without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—With the exception of sales of Yangtses at \$147½ and \$147¼ from the North there is no business to report. Unions continue on offer at \$225 and China Traders at \$75 without finding buyers, whilst other Marines rule steady at quotations with small sales.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Both Hongkongs and Chinas have been much quieter at \$369 and \$103 respectively. At time of writing the former are in request at \$367½ without bringing out sellers and the latter are quiet at quotation.

SHIPPING.—Stocks have all ruled weak and neglected. Hongkong, Canton, and Macao after further sales at \$32¼ were negotiated at \$32¼, but buyers at the latter rate rule the market at time of writing. Douglases have been on offer at \$59, without leading to any important business. Indo-Chinas have been steady with small buyers at \$41, but no cash business has been reported; on time, however, at equivalent rates a fair business has been done. China-Manilas and Mutuels continue entirely out of the market.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have changed hands during the week at erratic rates for the end of the month, and although the ruling rate for December was \$136-137 with sellers shares have changed hands at \$138 to Shanghai; the cash rate has been weak at \$136 and \$135½, at both of which sales have been effected. Luzons have found small buyers at quotation and close steady.

MINING.—With a poorer result of the monthly clean up than we have lately been accustomed to, i.e. 530 oz. from 1,150 tons crushed and 77 oz. from 45 tons of Concentrates. Punjom has ruled weak with only

small sales at \$13, \$12.75, and \$12 for ordinaries and \$3.90 and \$3.85 for preferences; market closes quiet at \$12. Raubs have continued in demand at \$9, but very few shares have changed hands, holders anticipating much higher rates. Balmorals have been in some demand and have been negotiated at \$1, \$1.10, and \$1.20. Jebebus have found small buyers at quotations.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have continued dull with only small sales at 214 and 215 per cent. prem. Kowloon Wharves have changed hands at \$59, \$59½, and \$60, closing steady at \$59½. Wanchais continue neglected at quotation.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have ruled easier with sellers and only small sales at \$76. Hotels continue steady with sales at \$30 and \$30½. West Points and Kowloon Lands unchanged without business, whilst Humphreys Estates have ruled firmer with buyers at \$8.75 and \$9 and sales at the latter rate.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have been enquired for at \$18½ to \$18¾, but at \$19 shares are obtainable. Fenwicks have changed hands at \$29½, Electrics at \$6.40, and Bells Asbestos at \$4.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		[\$349.37], buyers
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	179½ % prem =
China & Japan, pref.	£5	nominal
Do. ordinary	£1 10s.	nominal
Do. deferred	£1	£5, buyers
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$26½
Founders Shares	£1	\$100, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	15s.	\$1.50
Brown & Co., H. G.	\$50	(in liquidation).
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$6
Carrichael & Co.	\$20	\$3
China Sugar	\$100	\$136, buyers
Dakin, Cruick's & Co.	\$5	nominal
Dairy Farm Co.	\$5	\$5, nominal
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$29½, sales & sellers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$19, sellers
H. & China Bakery	\$50	\$30
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$110
Hongkong Electric	\$8	\$6.40, sales & sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$99, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$30½, sales
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$108
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$5½, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$1.6, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	214 p. ct. prem. =
Insurances—		[\$92], sales & b
Canton	\$50	\$185, sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$103, sales
China Traders	\$25	\$75, sales & sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$368, sales & buyers
North-China	£25	Tls. 192½
Straits	\$20	\$26½, sellers
Union	\$25	\$225, sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$147½, sal. & sellers
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment	\$50	\$76, sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$9, sales
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$17½, sellers
West Point Building	\$40	\$18½, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$45, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	72½
Jebebu	\$5	\$2.85, sales & sellers
New Balmoral	\$3	\$1.20, sales
Oliver's Mines, A.	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do. B.	\$2½	\$2½, sellers
Punjom	\$4	\$12, sales
Do. Preference	\$1	\$3.80, buyers
Raubs	13s. 10d.	\$9, sales & buyers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$69, sellers
China Mutual Ord.	£5	£2.10, sellers
Do. Preference	£10	£7, sellers
Douglas S. S. Co.	\$50	\$59, sales & sellers
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$32½, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$41, sales & sellers
Wanchai Warehouse Co.	\$37½	\$45
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$12.25, sal. & sellers

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 4th December.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s report.)—A fair business has been done during the week. Prices have been well maintained, except in Tobacco shares. Money is tight among the Chinese, and there is more inclination among them to sell than to buy shares. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Shares have been purchased, chiefly from Hongkong, at 180 per cent. premium for cash, 191 per cent. premium for April, and 196 per cent. premium for June. There are buyers for

cash at the close. National Bank shares are wanted at \$26½. Shipping.—Business has been confined to Indo-China S. N. shares, which have changed hands at Tls. 28 to Tls. 29½ cash, Tls. 29½ and Tls. 30 for delivery on the 31st current, and at Tls. 31 for 31st March delivery. The market is firm at the close with inclination to buy. Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat shares are offering, in Hongkongs at \$32¼, while Douglas Steamship shares are wanted at \$58. Docks.—Shares in S. C. Farnham & Co. have been sold for delivery on the 31st current at Tls. 184. Hongkong & Whampoa Dock shares are offering, in Hongkong at 215 per cent. premium. Marine Insurance.—China Traders' shares were sold to Hongkong at \$75. North-Chinas have been placed at Tls. 195 and Tls. 196. Yangtses have found purchasers at \$144 cash, and \$147 to \$147½ for the 31st December, and shares were sold to Hongkong at \$147 for cash. Straits have been placed at \$26 and \$2½, and are offering at the latter price. Fire Insurance.—Hongkongs were sold to Hongkong at \$365. There are now sellers there at \$370. No business is reported in Chinas, which are steady at \$102½. Wharves.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares have changed hands to a limited extent at 122½. One or two lots of Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown shares were placed at \$8. Mining.—Sheridans are now of favour. Jebebu M. & T. shares are enquired for at \$2.40, Raub Australian Gold Mining shares were sold at \$9. Sugars.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares are offering at Tls. 25 cash. China Sugar Refining shares have been purchased from Hongkong at \$136 and \$137 for cash, and \$138 for the 31st current. Local shares were all sold for the 31st at \$138½ and \$139. Luzons were purchased from Hongkong at \$50 for delivery on the 30th April. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares were sold, fully paid up at Tls. 82½, and with Tls. 30 paid up at Tls. 61. Industrial.—There are buyers of Major Brothers shares at Tls. 40. Ewo Cotton S. & W. shares were sold at Tls. 8½ and are in strong demand at that price. Soy Chee Cotton S. shares placed at Tls. 525. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai Waterworks shares have been sold at Tls. 253. Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares were placed at Tls. 100 cash and Tls. 110.10 for delivery on the 31st May. Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares have been parted with at Tls. 300, Tls. 29½, and Tls. 280. Hall & Holtz shares were placed at \$37½ cash and \$38½ for the 31st March. Quotations are:—

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

—\$360.

National Bank of China, Ltd.—\$27.

National Bank of China, Ltd., Founders.—\$100.

Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited,

pref. shares.—Nominal.

Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited,

ordinary shares.—Nominal.

Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited,

deferred shares.—£5.

Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 29½.

China-Mutual Steam Nav. Co. pref. shares.—

£35.0.

China-Mutual Steam Nav. Co. ord. shares.—

£3 1s. 7d.

Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co.

—\$32.70.

Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.—\$58.

Boyd & Co., Ltd., Founders.—Tls. Nominal.

Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 185.

S. C. Farnham & Co.—Tls. 181.

Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.—\$387½.

China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$74.

North China Insurance Co., Ltd.—Tls. 196.

Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd.—\$235.

Yangtze Insee. Assocn., Ltd.—\$145.

Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.—\$185.

Straits Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$26½.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$360½.

China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$102.

Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 122½.

Birt's Wharf Hide-curing and Wool-cleaning

Company.—Tls. 55.

Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown

Company, Limited.—\$58.

Sheridan Consolidated Mining and Milling

Company, Limited.—Tls. 4.00.

Punjom Mining Co., Ltd.—\$13.

Punjom Mining Co., Ltd., pref. shares.—\$3.80.

Jebebu Mining & Trading Co., Ltd.—\$9.

Raub Australian Gold Min. Co., Ltd.—\$9.

Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ltd.—Tls. 225.

Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd.—Tls. 101.

Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 205.

Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 185.

Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ltd.—Tls. 25½.

China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$137½.

Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$46.

Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd. (fully paid).

—Tls. 82½.

Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd. (Tls. 30 paid).
—Tls. Nominal.
Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ltd.—\$774.
Kowloon Land & Building Co., Ltd.—\$18.
Humphreys Estate and Finance Co., Ltd.—\$84.
Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 42.
Ewo Cotton Spinning & W. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 85.
International Cotton Man. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 924.
Lao-kung-mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving
Co., Ltd.—Tls. 924.
Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Co., Ltd.—Tls. 525.
Shanghai Ice Company—Tls. 150.
Shanghai Gas Co.—Tls. 2124.
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.—Tls. 2534.
Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 100.
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd.—Tls. 280.
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd., Founders.
—Nominal.
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.—Tls. 724.
J. Llewellyn & Co., Limited.—\$60.
Hall & Holtz, Ltd.—\$374.
A. S. Watson Co., Limited.—\$124.
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ltd.—\$0.75.
Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.—\$64.

TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 4th December (from Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report).—It will now be only a few days before the closing of the northern ports; we must therefore look forward to a more or less dull season for the next few months, as tea exports are practically finished, and the only cargo procurable in any quantity is braid, wool, etc., of which there is still a quantity for the United States, but for London there is very little doing. Coasting.—Is still very dull, and employment even for the regular liners is difficult to obtain; low rates are still ruling between this and Nagasaki. For New York via Cape.—There is no opportunity to ship by this route, as the *Sam Skidfield* will clear in a day or two a full ship, and as the *Collingrove* has had to refuse to grant any more space, it is not likely that there will be another ship loading this season. Rates of freight are:—London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 3s.; waste silk 40s.; tea 35s.; Northern Continental ports, by Conference Lines, general cargo 35s.; waste silk 40s.; tea 35s.; New York, by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 40s.; tea 40s.; New York via London, by Conference Lines, general cargo 42s. 6d.; waste silk 47s. 6d.; tea 42s. 6d.; Boston via New York, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 52s. 6d.; tea 47s. 6d.; Philadelphia, by Conference Lines, general cargo 47s. 6d.; waste silk 52s. 6d.; tea 47s. 6d. Above rates are subject to a deferred return, as per Conference circular. London, by German mail, Shell, and Rickmers' Lines, general cargo 3s. 6d. net; Hamburg, by German mail, Shell, and Rickmers' Lines, general cargo 31s. 6d. net; New York, by German mail, Shell, and Rickmers' Lines, general cargo 38s. 6d. net; Havre direct, general cargo 32s. 6d. net; Genoa, tallow 32s. 6d.; general cargo 32s. 6d. net; Marseilles, tallow 32s. 6d.; general cargo 32s. 6d. net. 42s. 6d. per ton of 20 cwt. for above three ports. New York, by sail, 19s.; New York by Pacific Lines, 14 gold cents per lb. Coast rates are:—Mojito to Shanghai, 90 cents nominal per ton coal; Nagasaki to Shanghai, 85 cents nominal per ton coal.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—*Aden* (str.), *Palawan* (str.), *Agamemnon* (str.), *Benledi* (str.), *Kaiser-i-Hind* (str.).
For VANCOUVER.—*Empress of Japan* (str.).
For SAN FRANCISCO.—*Coptic* (str.), *Glan Macfarlane*, *Matterhorn* (str.), *City of Rio de Janeiro* (str.), *Sumbawa*.
For MARSEILLES.—*Yamaguchi Maru* (str.).
For VICTORIA.—*Chittagong* (str.).
For NEW YORK.—*William H. Smith*, *Penobscot*, *Giangyle* (str.).
For AUSTRALIA.—*Tokio Maru* (str.), *Airlie* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

December—ARRIVALS.
2, Woosung, British str., from Chinkiang.
3, Kiangnan, Chinese str., from Canton.
3, Chowfa, British str., from Bangkok.
3, Devawongse, British str., from Bangkok.
3, Sunda, British str., from London.
3, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
3, Toonan, Chinese str., from Chefoo.
3, Rio, German str., from Singapore.
4, Tamsui, British str., from Canton.
4, Progress, German str., from Canton.
4, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Canton.
4, Clara, German str., from Canton.
4, Taisang, British str., from Canton.

4, Victoria, Swedish str., from Singapore.
4, Kaiser, German cruiser, from Amoy.
4, Namoa, British str., from Coast Ports.
4, Suisang, British str., from Singapore.
5, Foochow, British str., from Canton.
5, Kweiyang, British str., from Canton.
5, Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.
5, Tainan, British str., from Sydney.
5, Nanshan, British str., from Swatow.
5, Hunan, British str., from Canton.
5, Kweilin, British str., from Shanghai.
5, Victoria, British str., from Tacoma.
6, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
6, Deuteros, German str., from Saigon.
6, Fushun, Chinese str., from Canton.
6, Kansu, British str., from Canton.
6, Lyseemoo, German str., from Shanghai.
6, Sachsen, German str., from Shanghai.
6, Singan, British str., from Canton.
6, Strathallan, British str., from Hongay.
6, Tetartos, German str., from Kutchinotzu.
6, Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
6, Turbo, British str., from Batoum.
6, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.
6, Zaffro, British str., from Manila.
7, Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.
7, Sullberg, German str., from Haiphong.
7, Memnon, British str., from Sandakan.
7, Pakhoi, British str., from Chinkiang.
7, Pakshan, British str., from Singapore.
7, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.
8, Airlie, British str., from Foochow.
8, Ernest-Simons, French str., from Shanghai.
8, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.
8, Ulysses, British str., from Shanghai.

DEPARTURES.

3, Peru, American str., for San Francisco.
3, Doris, German str., for Hoihow.
3, Bisagno, Italian str., for Bombay.
3, Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
3, Michael-Jensen, German str., for Nagasaki.
3, Ravenna, British str., for Europe.
3, Woosung, British str., for Canton.
3, St. Mark, Amr. ship, for New York.
4, Ask, Danish str., for Hoihow.
4, Toonan, Chinese str., for Canton.
4, Hailong, British str., for Swatow.
4, Chowtai, British str., for Bangkok.
4, Verona, British str., for Yokohama.
4, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.
4, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
4, Quarta, German str., for Moji.
4, Rio, German str., for Amoy.
4, Skuld, Norw. str., for Yokohama.
4, Tailee, German str., for Hongay.
5, Catharine Apar, British str., for Calcutta.
5, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
5, Ran, Norw. str., for Singapore.
5, S. Rickmers, German str., for Foochow.
5, Sunda, British str., for Shanghai.
5, Taisang, British str., for Shanghai.
6, Chelydra, British str., for Kutchinotzu.
6, Decima, German str., for Saigon.
6, Kiangnan, Chinese str., for Swatow.
6, Kweilin, British str., for Canton.
6, Kweiyang, British str., for Saigon.
6, Marie-Jensen, German str., for Singapore.
6, Namoa, British str., for Swatow.
6, Nanshan, British str., for Singapore.
6, Sunghiang, British str., for Manila.
6, Narcisus, British cruiser, for Yokohama.
6, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
7, Kansu, British str., for Shanghai.
7, Lyseemoo, German str., for Canton.
7, Progress, German str., for Haiphong.
7, Singan, British str., for Shanghai.
7, Tamsui, British str., for Swatow.
7, Turbo, British str., for Kobe.
7, Victoria, Swedish str., for Amoy.
8, Hunan, British str., for Shanghai.
8, Formosa, British str., for Amoy.
8, Choysang, British str., for Canton.
8, Clara, German str., for Haiphong.
8, Pakhoi, British str., for Canton.
8, Strathallan, British str., for Canton.
8, Fushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
8, Irene, German cruiser, for a cruise.
8, Tacoma, British str., for Tacoma.
8, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
8, Wingsang, British str., for Swatow.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Hailong*, str., from Tamsui, &c.—Messrs. Fruin, Spatz, and Maher.
Per *Fushun*, str., from Shanghai—Messrs. D. Scott and A. Assenhamer.

Per *Devawongse*, str., from Bangkok, &c.—Mrs. E. Eugene McLeecan, Mr. J. Emerson.
Per *Toonan*, str., from Chefoo—Messrs. T. and J. Brennan, and Mr. S. Grant.
Per *Sunda*, str., for Hongkong from London—Mr. C. E. Nicholas, Staff-Paymaster Whitfield, Capt. C. F. Mould, Lieut. C. F. Randell, 2nd Lieut. Head, Mrs. Pinkerton, Mrs. Sherwood, child and infant, Messrs. Hoyes, Dean, and C. Beron. From Singapore—Surg. Capt. P. J. R. Nunnerly, A.M.S. For Shanghai from London—Mr. J. Handcock, Mrs. Macdonald, Messrs. E. Nelson, T. H. Spottiswoode, and Hardson. From Penang—Mr. J. S. Kennedy.

Per *Namoa*, str., from Foochow, &c.—Mr. Wolestrom.
Per *Tainan*, str., from Sydney—Mr. and Mrs. Hudson and child, Messrs. Riley, Mawley and Powell.

Per *Formosa*, str., from Tamsui, &c.—Surg. Capt. Eyde, and Dr. Leuring.

Per *Lyseemoo*, str., from Shanghai—Miss Wauchope, Messrs. Cunningham, R. Pokroffsky, J. Mendelsohn, and K. Korosky.

Per *Thales*, str., from Taiwanfoo, &c.—Messrs. Asvasia, Matsumoto, Cameron, Capt. Kock and Eggers.

Per *Sachsen*, str., from Shanghai for Hongkong—Messrs. O. H. Müller, Geo. B. Platten-Gill, Mr. and Miss Hunt, Mrs. Bell-Irving, Miss Bolitha, Messrs. Jessen, and Andrew H. Boyd. For Europe—Mr. Angelo Luzzati, Corv. Capt. Brinkmann, Lieut. v. Grumbkow, Lieut. Valentiner, Lieut. Taegert, Lieut. Graf Monte, Lieut. Püllen, Lieut. Killer, Messrs. Milcan, T. Tseyan, A. and Grusy, and Churohward.

Per *Memnon*, str., from Sandakan—Messrs. Sampson and B. Sayer.

DEPARTED.

Per *Rohilla*, str., for Shanghai from Hongkong—Mr. E. L. Descur. From London—Revs. C. Bonsfield and Thompson, Messrs. W. Clarke, Misses Kirkwood, McQuillan, and Ghey, Rev. C. J. and Mrs. Symons and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. Harvie, Mr. and Mrs. Huntley and 3 children. From Brindisi—Mr. L. Sonbeur. From Colombo—Mr. Lemon. From Singapore—Mrs. Savinoff and Miss Cameron.

Per *Ravenna*, str., from Hongkong for Singapore—Messrs. Ng Sow Sang, Lau Pak Chuen, and J. Martens. For Bombay—Mr. C. S. Camroodii. For Madras—Mr. Galloway. For Brindisi—Hon. Mrs. and Miss Napier. For Melbourne—Mrs. E. Talfourd-Walker. For London—Messrs. H. Rümker and J. A. Stolt. From Yokohama for Bombay—Mr. T. Takayanaki. For Ismailia—Mr. M. C. Nason and Mrs. J. W. Innes. For Brindisi—Misses Birnstingl and E. Birnstingl. For London—General C. D. Flagg, Messrs. D. Alcock and Menpes. From Kobe for Singapore—Mr. Shibuya. From Shanghai for London—Mr. Jurdon.

Per *Peru*, str., for Shanghai—Miss Naess. For Nagasaki—Mr. S. Nomura. For Yokohama—Mr. Martin Tupper. For San Francisco—Messrs. G. G. Lotman, Cyrus S. Moore, W. G. Hoekridge, and L. S. Tieman.

Per *Taiyuan*, str., for Sydney—Mr. M. J. Robinson.

Per *Ask*, str., for Pakhoi—Rev. Ferrand, Mr. and Mrs. Dejoux.

Per *Esmeralda*, str., for Manila—Sub-Lieut. Geo. W. Williams, R.N., Messrs. H. O'Shea, A. Stewart, H. Cecil, A. M. Hankinson, and H. R. Cöombs.

Per *Verona*, str., for Kobe from Hongkong—Mr. G. A. C. Taylor. From Singapore—Mr. L. M. Hegt. From London—Mr. Hamond and Rev. G. Chapman. For Nagasaki from London—Mr. Painter. For Yokohama from Singapore—Mr. L. S. Lewis. From Brindisi—Capt. Nebogatow. From Aden—Mr. B. R. Miller. From London—Miss Gordon, Miss Bristowe, Mrs. Allen, and Mr. Inglis.

Per *Loongmoon*, str., for Lhanghai—Mr. Hammarson.

Per *Namoa*, str., for Amoy—Messrs. L. A. Trapmon and Hayashi. For Foochow—Mr. H. J. Owen.

Per *Hanoi*, str., for Hoihow—Rev. Grandpierre, Messrs. A. R. Marty and Carlini.

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